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Non-observance of Conversational Maxims as a Source of Humour in the
Sitcom The Big Bang Theory

Markéta Dančová

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Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Cílem diplomové práce je prostudovat žánr sitkomu z hlediska záměrného porušování konverzačních maxim a jejich vztahu k ironii. Diplomantka nejprve na základě studia odborné literatury představí Griceovu teorii úspěšné konverzace, vymezí kooperační princip, popíše konverzační maximy a definuje koncept implikatury. Dále vymezí ironii jako pragmalingvistický humoristický prostředek, který nutí posluchače, aby odhalil relevantní a zamýšlený význam promluvy. Následně analyzuje dostatečný počet dialogů ze seriálu Teorie velkého třesku, ve kterých identifikuje principy tvoření ironických promluv, popíše jejich kontexty výskytu a zhodnotí jejich interpretace s ohledem na porušování konverzačních maxim. Analýza se rovněž zaměří na signalizování ironických promluv a jejich perlokutivní akt (tj. účinek na adresáta), interpretace a chápání. Na závěr autorka zhodnotí vztah ironie a kooperačního principu/konverzační implikatury v závislosti na kontextových a mimojazykových faktorech a zdůvodní převažující tendence v žánru sitkomu.

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Vedoucí diplomové práce:

PhDr. Petra Huschová, Ph.D.

Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky

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prof. PhDr. Karel Rýdl, CSc.
děkan



Mgr. Olga Roebuck, Ph.D.
vedoucí katedry

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Annotation

The aim of this paper is to analyze the Maxim non-observance in the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, more specifically, how and when Maxim non-observance is used for creating humorous conversations. The theoretical part focuses on the work of H. P. Grice, the terms implicature, the Cooperative Principle, and Maxims of conversation are introduced. In the following chapters, humor is defined and linked to the non-observance of Maxims of conversation. The practical part focuses on analysis of selected conversations from the sitcom and tries to find the rules for using Maxim non-observance for creating humor.

Key words

Maxims of conversation, implicature, pragmatics, humor, sarcasm, sitcom

Název

Porušování konverzačních maxim za účelem humoru v sitcomu *Teorie velkého třesku*

Anotace

Cílem této práce je zanalyzovat výskyt porušování konverzačních maxim v sitcomu *Teorie velkého třesku*, přesněji, jak a kdy se porušování maxim používá pro vznik humorných konverzací. Teoretická část se zaměřuje na práci H. P. Grice, vysvětlují se zde termíny implikatura, kooperační princip, a maximy konverzace. V další části je definován humor a spojen s porušováním maxim. Praktická část se analyzuje vybrané konverzace se sitcomu a snaží se najít, jaká jsou pravidla pro porušování maxim v tomto sitcomu na účelem vzniku humoru.

Klíčová slova

Konverzační maximy, implikatura, pragmatika, humor, sarkasmus, sitcom

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List of Abbreviations

CP: Cooperative Principle

Qlty: Quality Maxim

Qnty: Quantity Maxim

Rel: Relation Maxim

Man: Manner Maxim

Fl: Flouting

Vi: Violation

Op: Opting out

In: Infringing

App: Appendix

Introduction

The focus of this master thesis is the use of non-observance of Maxims as a source of humor in the TV sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. The aim is to find whether there are any prevailing tendencies in how the non-observances occur, and to analyze how exactly the Maxims are broken. The *Big Bang Theory* series is a very popular sitcom, and a proof is that it was translated into many languages, including Czech, and has many viewers all around the world. The fans are usually able to quote humorous utterances from the series, yet it is unknown why the utterances are perceived as humorous. This led to a desire to explore humorous utterances from the series from the linguistic point of view.

The paper is divided into two parts, theoretical and analytical. The theoretical part introduces H. P. Grice's theory, namely it focuses on implicature, the Cooperative Principle and the Maxims of conversation, and further development and alternations of his theory. The first of the main chapters deals with Grice's theory of implicature, as it is crucial for understanding humorous situation containing features such as sarcasm. The second part deals with the Cooperative Principle and the Maxims of conversation, and it also introduces alternations made by other linguists. The last chapter of the theory deals with Maxim non-observance. In this chapter, the categories of non-observance are introduced and exemplified, as for understanding the analytical part, the non-observance types and differences between them have to be understood correctly.

The analytical part begins with the description of the methodology and the corpus. For the analytical part a corpus consisting of 250 conversations was created; the corpus may be found in the Appendix of this paper, as it is used throughout the analytical part for referencing. In the next chapter, selected conversations from the corpus are analyzed in detail to show general tendencies and differences between the use of various types of non-observances. The last part of the analytical part discusses the results of the analysis, in other words, general tendencies, who and how uses given types of Maxim non-observance to create humor, and how the humor may be perceived by a viewer of the sitcom.

1. Implicature, the Cooperative Principle and Maxims of Conversation

In 1967 Herbert Paul Grice introduced a theory claiming there is a difference between what people say and what they actually mean. Eight years later he published an essay called *Logic and Conversation* (Thomas 2013, 56). In this work Grice presents ideal conditions that are crucial for leading a successful conversation, regardless of the subject matter of the conversation. The aim of this theory was to form a language which would be ideal by using formal devices, and by constructing clear and true sentences (Grice 1975, 42 - 43). The ideas introduced in Grice's work are crucial for this diploma thesis, and therefore, in the following chapters, the key concepts described by Grice in *Logic and Conversation*, namely the terms *implicature*, *the Cooperative Principle* and *Maxims of conversation* will be explained.

1.1. Implicature

According to Grice's theory, in every conversation it is important to see the "additional meaning" occurring in utterances. The additional meaning was named *implicature* (Grice 1975, 43). In other words, there is a difference between what a person says and implies, as when the receiver is concerned with what the speaker says, the knowledge of the particular language is sufficient, i.e. the receiver relies on the meaning of the words only. On the other hand, when the receiver wants to know what the speaker implies, he needs to have extra-linguistic knowledge, e.g. the time of utterance or the particular occasion of utterance (Grice 1975, 44). Other linguists describe this phenomenon as the difference between the semantic meaning and the pragmatic meaning: the semantic meaning is carried by the uttered words, whereas the pragmatic meaning (also *extralinguistic* meaning) stems from the act of uttering something, so what the speaker implies is not generated by what the speaker says but rather in the act of saying something in a certain way (Bach 2006, 476).

It follows that implicature is a part of the speaker's meaning, and it is a mistake to think that implicatures are part of the hearer's meaning or the sentence (Horn 2006, 3), which also means that the relevant part is the understanding on the side of the recipient, as he has to identify correctly the speaker's message (or communicative intention) (Bach 2006, 470). The theory of implicature is considered to be one of the most important theories in pragmatics, as it claims that it is possible to mean something else than is actually uttered (Levinson 2008, 97).

Implicature, the additional meaning, was further divided into two types: conventional and conversational. Conventional implicature means that the conveyed implicature is always the

same. i.e. in all contexts. The other one, conversational implicature, depends on the context, as the same utterance can convey a different implicature in different contexts (Thomas 2013, 57). Conventional implicature is context independent, as the implicature is connected to the meaning of the words and must be learned. The additional implicature is always connected to “particular lexical items or linguistic constructions”, which means that unlike conversational implicature, conventional implicature is not dependent on The Cooperative Principle and the Maxims of conversation (Huang 2017, 176) (for the Cooperative Principle and the Maxims of conversation see 1.2.). It follows that the conventional meaning of the uttered words determines not only what is said, but also what is implicated: *John is an Englishman; he is, therefore, brave* (Grice 1975, 45). In this example the word which carries the implicature is the word *therefore*, as it has the arbitrary meaning that something “follows” from something else. The example sentence implies that John’s braveness is a consequence of being an Englishman, although the author of the utterance did not explicitly say that John is brave *because* he is an Englishman (Grice 1975, 45). However, some linguists argue that conventional implicature does not exist: these linguists state that it is not necessary to have the category of conventional implicature, as what is treated by others as conventional implicature, does not need to be categorized (Horn 2006, 6).

One of the critics was Kent Bach who wrote a paper *The Myth of Conventional Implicature*. Bach claims that “there is no such thing as conventional implicature and that the phenomena that have been described as such are really instances of something else“ (Bach 1999b, 360). According to Bach, what the Gricean linguists identify as conventional implicatures are usually either aspects of what is said, and therefore there cannot be implicatures, as implicatures are an “extra” meaning, or *utterance modifiers* which are defined by non-contributing to what is uttered but at the same time they do not create a conventional implicature (Bach 1999b, 361). Bach supports his theory by providing the following example: *Frankly, the dean is a moron*, on which he explains that the speaker is not implying that he actually *is* speaking frankly, but he is rather commenting on his utterance. (Bach 2006, 474). Bach’s example of criticism is rather vague, however, many other linguists are more specific: they claim that conventional implicature can be treated as a part of presupposition (Levinson 2008, 207 – 208).

Grice’s other type of implicature, so-called conversational implicature, seemed to be a breakthrough in pragmatics (Levinson 2008, 98), and many of the abovementioned critics of the conventional implicature claimed that conversational implicature is actually the only type of implicature (Levinson 2008, 208). An example of conversational implicature is the following exchange: A: *Can you tell me the time?* – B: *The milkman has come*. Here, the speaker A is able

to deduce the approximate time based on an extralinguistic knowledge, namely the knowledge of the time when the milkman (usually) arrives (Levinson 2008, 98). As can be seen, conversational implicature is different from the conventional implicature, as the receiver has to identify the hidden meaning in other way than in the latter; i.e. the conversational implicature is not about an extra meaning conveyed by one single word (or a phrase) but it has to be identified based on the context as the meaning of the words is non-conventional, which is the crucial difference between conventional and conversational implicatures (Horn 2006, 4). The question how can be conversational implicature generated arises.

Conversational implicature can be created either by strict observation of the Maxims or by the speaker's ostentatious flouting of the Maxims (see Chapter 1.2.2.), in other words, conversational implicature can be distinguished according to whether it arises from observation or non-observation of the Maxims. Compare the following utterances: *The soup is warm* and *The British Foreign Office is in Washington*. One of the possible implicatures of the first sentence is that the soup is not hot. The speaker here follows the Maxims, and still it is possible to look for an implicature in the sentence. On the other hand, the implicature in the second sentence is created by the speaker's exploitation of Grice's Maxim of Quality. The speaker implies that the UK follows America's foreign policies too closely. (Huang 2017, 156 - 158). It follows that speakers may create conversational implicatures by either following or breaking (not observing) a Maxim. This paper will focus only on implicatures arising from Maxim non-observance.

More common division of conversational implicature is according to whether it is *generalized conversational implicature* or *particularized conversational implicature*. The former can be created when there is no extra knowledge needed in the context, and the additional meaning can be calculated without this special knowledge. An example is the following sentence: *A: Did you buy cheese and bread? - B: Cheese*. (Yule 1996, 40 – 41). As apparent, the speaker B wants to implicate that he brought the cheese *only* and did not bring the bread, and the recipient is able to identify the implicature, as it stems from the construction of the reply itself (which means from the used words), not from the context. The difference between conventional implicature and generalized conversational implicature is that the former is the same in *all* contexts whereas for the latter the participants need to know the specific context for identifying the implicature.

In English it is typical to recognize generalized conversational implicature when the speaker uses an indefinite article: *A child looked over the fence*. The use of the indefinite article implies that the child was not the speaker's child. According to Yule, this rule is generally applicable

for all instances of “a/an X”, as it is obvious that “X” does not belong to the speaker / is unknown to the speaker, etc. (Yule 1996, 41).

The other type of conversational implicature is called *particularized*. Particularized conversational implicature is more common, as most of the communication between humans takes place in specific contexts, in which extra-linguistic knowledge, and therefore also recognizing the implicatures correctly, is needed. An example of a conversational implicature may be found in the following exchange: *A: Hey, coming to the wild party tonight? – B: My parents are visiting*. To understand the implicature which is: “No, I won’t come.”, the speaker A needs some background knowledge, which in this case might be that Tom prefers to be with his parents whenever he can (Yule 1996, 42 – 43).

To conclude this chapter, the main difference between conventional and conversational implicature is that for identifying conventional implicature the receiver does not need any contextual knowledge, whereas when the speaker implies something by conversational implicature, he relies on the background knowledge of the receiver, or that the receiver is able to identify the implicature properly based on the context. As the analysis of this paper will deal with the humor in sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, it is more probable that knowledge not only of the given situation but also of the characters (and even sometimes their background) will be crucial. In other words, it is expected that most of the jokes which will be based on implicatures (such as irony), will be those arising from the context, therefore, conversational implicatures.

1.2. The Cooperative Principle and the Maxims of Conversation

The notion of implicature needed to be developed into a more detailed theory, therefore, Grice further worked with the concept of implicature; he stated that the crucial point for identifying the right conversational implicature is to know how to use the language properly (Levinson 2008, 101). That is why Grice created ‘guidelines’ for an effective way of communication, or, as he described them, “general features of discourse” which are connected to conversational implicature, and called the rules *the Cooperative Principle* and *the Maxims of conversation*. According to Grice, to successfully recognize the right implicature several factors are needed: the context, the uttered words and their meaning, but also the hearer has to assume that the speaker follows the Maxims of conversation and the Cooperative Principle (Blakemore 1992, 147). Nevertheless, it is important to note that the CP and the Maxims are important even when the speaker is not trying to produce an implicature, but even when the speaker means literally

what he says, as even this requires a correct identification of a message on the recipient's side (Bach 2006, 471).

The Cooperative Principle (also 'CP') says that the speaker should "make his contribution such as required, at the state at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which he is engaged" (Grice 1975, 45); according to Grice, this is one of the basic general features of discourse leading to a successful conversation.

However, the Cooperative Principle is not sufficient for a successful communication. The principle has to be in accordance with four Maxims of conversation, which were also proposed by Grice (Grice 1975, 45), and the Maxims can be seen as "four pragmatic sub-principles" of the Cooperative Principle (Mey 2001, 72). The four Maxims of conversation defined by Grice are: Quantity (concerned with the amount of information), Quality (about the truthfulness of the utterance), Relation (about the relation to the discussed topic), and Manner (how the speaker says the utterances) (Thomas 2013, 63-64). The Maxims were created so that the participants could have a conversation which is "efficient, rational, and co-operative" (Levinson 2008, 102), which means that observing them should lead to a conversation which is successful for both, the speaker and the recipient.

The first category of Maxims, Quantity, is concerned with the amount of information provided by the speaker, and the sub-categories, which are under this Maxim, are:

1. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange).
2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

(Grice 1975, 45)

In other words, the speaker should consider the right amount of information based on the conversation, he should respond neither too briefly nor give too detailed answer.

The second category is the category of Quality. Grice introduces a supermaxim "Try to make your contribution one that is true" and two sub-categories:

1. Do not say what you believe to be false.
2. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

(Grice 1975, 46)

The Quality Maxims are concerned with the truthfulness of the utterance, so that the receiver would not be misled, or given any information that would not be verified.

The next category, the category of Relation, has only one Maxim: “Be relevant”. Although Grice himself admits that this Maxim is quite problematic in terms of dealing with the changes of subject during conversations etc., the Maxim is important, as the receiver should answer the speaker with an utterance which is relevant to the discussed topic. (Grice 1975, 46)

The last category is the category of Manner. This category differs from the previous categories, as the preceding categories were concerned with what the speaker says whereas the category of Manner is concerned with how he says it:

1. Avoid obscurity of expression.
2. Avoid ambiguity.
3. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).
4. Be orderly.

(Grice 1975, 46)

Apparently, the category of Manner defines the way in which the speaker is not too loquacious, and the sentences are constructed in an understandable way which does not lead to confusion of the receiver.

An example of an ideal conversation in which the Maxims are followed may be the following: *A: Why were you late this morning? – B: My car broke down.* The speaker B answers with an utterance which is in accordance with Grice’s Maxims of conversation. It follows that the observation of the Maxims leads to a conversation in which the speakers are sincere, relevant, clear and provide sufficient information (Levinson 2008, 102) and that in the conversation the speakers may rely that the receivers “amplify what the speakers say by some straightforward inferences¹” (Levinson 2008, 104), i.e. that the receivers identify correctly what the speaker meant by the utterance and what the purpose was. Nevertheless, it must be noted that it is the speaker’s assumption that the receiver identifies correctly the purpose of the utterance, and that the receiver might fail to identify the correct speaker meaning (Huang 2017, 157), and also that, from the other point of view, the recipient may incorrectly rely on the speaker being cooperative, more specifically, presume incorrectly that the speaker speaks in accordance with the abovementioned Maxims of conversation (Bach 2006, 471).

¹ *Inference* is a pragmatic term which stands for the process of recognizing successfully the speaker’s communicative intention. The whole process starts by the speaker’s uttering the utterance and ends by the receiver’s decoding of the communicative purpose of the utterance (Akmajian et al. 2001, 370).

1.2.1. Non-observance of Maxims

Grice admits that a participant in a conversation may fail to observe a Maxim. In *Logic and Conversation* he introduced four main categories of Maxim non-observance: *violation*, *opting out*, *clash*, and *flouting* (Grice 1975, 49). Later Grice added one more category, *infringing* a Maxim, and some linguists distinguish a fifth category of Maxim non-observance, *suspending* (Thomas 2013, 72). For the analytical part of this paper, the types of Maxim non-observance and the differences between them are crucial, as the analysis will focus on Maxim non-observant utterances only, therefore, this subchapter will focus on the abovementioned terms.

According to Grice, the first way how the speaker may be Maxim non-observant, is that he *violates* a Maxim, which stands for “deliberate and unostentatious” non-observance of a Maxim (Grice 1975, 49). An example is the following exchange: *Husband: Is there another man? – Wife: No*. Later the husband is told that the wife is having an affair not with a man but with a woman. In this case the wife’s answer was misleading, however, there was no sign of it in the utterance (Thomas 2013, 73). It follows that when the speaker violates a Maxim, he is being non-cooperative without showing it to the recipient, and the aim is usually to trick the recipient; generally, lying would be categorized as violation.

Another way how the speaker may break a Maxim is called *opting out*. When the speaker opts out a Maxim it means that he is aware of the Maxims, however, he makes the recipient aware that he is not going to observe a Maxim, e.g. *I cannot say more*. (Grice 1975, 49; Huang, 2007, 27). To make the recipient aware of the planned Maxim non-observance, the speaker uses hedges such as: *As far as I know* (Quality), *As you probably already know* (Quantity), *By the way* (Relation), *I am not sure if this makes sense* (Manner), etc. (Huang 2007, 26-27), in other words, the speaker ‘takes responsibility’ for not observing the Maxim by using a signal which makes the recipient aware of the non-observance, and at the same time, it is still seen as cooperative, as the speaker admits his fault and wants the conversation to continue.

The third category of Maxim non-observance is called *clash of Maxims*. Clash of Maxims can be defined as being unable to observe one Maxim without failing to observe the other. A typical example of clash of Maxims is Quantity vs. Quality (Grice 1975, 49), as it is even suggested that these Maxims “frequently work in competition with one another” and some linguists do not treat them separately but as one Maxim called Quantity-Quality Maxim (Leech 1983, 84). Now, it is important to note that in this paper they are going to be treated separately. An example of the clash between the Quantity and the Quality Maxim is: *A: Where does C live? – B:*

Somewhere in the South of France. (Grice 1975, 51). In this example sentence the Maxim of Quantity is not observed, as B did not give enough information about the exact address of C. The reason for the non-observance of the Quantity Maxim is that B probably does not know in which town C lives, and therefore he does not want to break one of the sub-categories of the Quality Maxim, “Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence” (see 1.2.), to put it very simply, the clash of Maxims is caused because the speaker has to ‘choose’ between two Maxims, and is forced to break one in order to be observant of the other.

The next category of failing to observe a Maxim is *infringing*, and it stands for Maxim non-observance caused by an “imperfect linguistic performance”. The speaker has no intention to mislead the speaker or to create an implicature. Infringing may be caused by e.g. the speaker being a non-native speaker, or by the speaker being nervous, inebriated, etc. Other reasons are that the speaker is not able to express his thoughts clearly or formulate them in an understandable way for the receiver, even by the speaker being unable to speak in a clear way and to the topic being discussed (Thomas 2013, 74). From the provided description it is obvious that a speaker who infringes a Maxim is doing so unwillingly, with no intention to either create an implicature or to trick the recipient, it is rather caused by his education, character, or by factors as age and background.

The last category of non-observance described by Grice was called *flouting*. Grice described *flouting* as the situation in which the speaker blatantly does not follow a Maxim. Grice states that the speaker often flouts a Maxim because he wants the hearer to look for the conversational implicature, not because he wants the receiver to be tricked or misled (Thomas 2013, 65). When a Maxim is flouted and there is a hidden conversational implicature in the utterance, the speaker ‘exploits’ the maxim (Grice 1975, 49). Further notes concerning exploitation of Maxims may be found in the following subchapter 1.2.2.

As mentioned above, there is a category of Maxim non-observance which was not distinguished by Grice, the category of *suspending*. This category was added by Thomas, who on one hand created a new category of non-observance, but on the other hand, did not distinguish the category of *clash* of Maxims (Attardo 2017, 178). Suspending a Maxim is culture-specific or specific in particular events. Thomas provides the following example from a novel set in the Navajo tribe: *‘Last time you were with that FBI man – asking about the man who got killed,’ she said, respecting the Navajo taboo of not speaking the name of the dead*. From the example the recipient might conclude that the speaker knew neither the FBI worker, nor the victim. However, to draw such implicatures would be false in this case – it is true that the speaker did

not know the name of the officer, however, the murdered man was the speaker's father. The reason for not saying explicitly his name is that in the Navajo culture it is taboo to say the name of a dead person. That is why in this case the Maxim of Quantity is suspended (Thomas 2013, 76-77). In the case of suspending, the speaker does not want to mislead the speaker, nor does he want to be non-cooperative; the speaker follows the traditions specific for his culture or for a given event, even though it may be in conflict with the recipient's culture.

To sum up, the difference between the five (or six if we take *suspending* into account) categories of Maxim non-observance is whether the speaker wants to be cooperative or not, and whether he shows somehow the Maxim non-observance. In addition, *flouting* creates conversational implicature while the other categories do not. This master thesis will focus on four of Grice's categories of Maxim non-observance (violation, opting out, infringement, and flouting) and on the way they may lead to humorous situations. The analysis will not focus on the clash of Maxims, as it is not probable that creating jokes stemming from the clash would be common in sitcoms.

1.2.2. Exploitation of Maxims

The Maxim non-observance is in the case of exploitation (also *flouting*) created willingly, with the aim to give rise to an implicature and the receiver is expected to recognize the hidden meaning:

“Floutings or exploitations of the maxims, can be seen to give rise to many of the traditional ‘figures of speech’. These inferences are based on the remarkable robustness of the assumption of co-operation: if someone drastically and dramatically deviates from maxim-type behaviour, then his utterances are still read as underlyingly co-operative.”

(Levinson 2008, 109)

It follows that when the speaker exploits a Maxim, he wants the receiver to discover a hidden meaning, but it must be noted that at the same time the speaker still wants to be cooperative.

All Maxims can be flouted in this way; the Maxims of Quantity can be flouted by not giving the sufficient amount of information. An extreme example are tautologies such as *War is war* or *Women are women*. At the first sight these utterances do not provide any information (Grice 1975, 52). As it is important to assume that the speaker still wants to cooperate, the receiver has to be convinced that “some informative inference must be made” (Levinson 2008, 109). However, the speaker wants the receiver to identify the implicature, i.e. to think about the reason why the speaker used this particular tautology and what is the underlying meaning (Grice 1975,

52); in the case of *War is war* the speaker might probably implicate something similar to *War is always terrible, do not think about the consequences, etc.*

Dealing with the exploitation of the Relation Maxim is not easy, as even linguists have different opinions on its frequency. Some linguists state that floutings of Relation Maxim “are a little harder to find, if only because it is hard to construct responses that must be interpreted as irrelevant” (Levinson 2008, 111) whereas others expressed the thought that this kind of Maxim exploitation is very frequent (Thomas 2013, 70). It follows that the Relation Maxim can be exploited by remarks which appear to be unrelated to the topic. An example is the following conversation: A: *Mrs. X is an old bag.* B: *The weather has been quite delightful this summer, hasn't it?* The possible interpretation is that the implicature in this case is that B thinks that A's comment about Mrs. X is inappropriate, etc. (Grice 1975, 54).

The Maxims of Manner may be flouted by the speaker when he talks in an ambiguous way, uses obscurity or fails to be brief (Grice 1975, 54 – 55). An example is this sentence from a review of a musical performance: *Miss Singer produced a series of sounds corresponding closely to the score of an aria from Rigoletto.* The speaker here uses this difficult structure to avoid writing directly that Miss Singer did not sing very well, perhaps that the sounds that she made were far from what a person might call “singing”. (Levinson 2008, 112) Thomas explains the flouting of Manner as a clash of goals when the speaker on one hand wants to say something but on the other hand he does not want to (Thomas 2013, 71 – 72).

The last Maxims, the Quality Maxims, can be exploited when the speaker utters a fact which is either untrue or for which he lacks evidence (Thomas 2013, 67). Flouting of the Quality Maxims is commonly used in figurative language, for example when an utterance contains metaphor or irony. Levinson provides the following example: *Queen Victoria was made of iron.* By this utterance the listener cannot rely on the meaning of words, as the speaker uttered “a falsehood”, as Queen Victoria was not ‘made of iron’. The hearer has to interpret it figuratively, i.e. that Queen Victoria had some properties similar to iron – hardness, etc. Levinson states that flouting the Maxim of Quality can therefore be seen as either being non-cooperative, or, which is the more probable explanation, it is used to convey a different implicature (Levinson 2008, 109 - 110). As apparent from Levinson's example, defining the right implicature when the Maxim of Quality is flouted it is quite a complicated process based on deduction, and the hearer cannot rely only on the semantic meaning of words.

1.2.3. Criticism and Further Development of the CP, the Maxims of Conversation, and the Conversational Implicature

As well as the concept of conventional implicature, the other aspects of Grice's work were also criticized. Some linguists claim that the Maxims do not have the same weight, i.e. the Maxims are used in different frequency and in different situations. Besides, the Maxims are not of the same importance, as the Quality Maxims are claimed to be the most important even by Grice. Criticism of the Maxims also include that the Maxims might have been reduced, e.g. "Do not make your contribution more informative than required" and "Make your contribution as informative as required" might have been transformed into one rule of the Quality category (Mey 2001, 82).

Another target of criticism was Grice's inconsistency considering terms; Grice uses the term *violation* also for any type of Maxim non-observance, which might cause the reader to be confused, or, as Thomas says, 'irritated' (Attardo 2017, 178); an example of a widely criticized mixing-up of the terms is the following exchange: At a genteel tea party, A says *Mrs. X is an old bag*. There is a moment of appalled silence, and then B says *The weather has been quite delightful this summer, hasn't it?* (Grice 1989, 35). Later in the text, Grice explains that B has *blatantly* responded in the way she did, i.e. decided not to comment A's remark – as Grice himself explains that it was *blatantly*, B's response should be classified as flouting, not as violation, which is exactly what Grice did (Grice 1989, 35; Attardo 2017, 180). Although some linguists criticize Grice's inconsistency regarding terms and therefore they distinguish the non-observance categories properly, it must be noted that other linguists, e.g. Salvatore Attardo, use the abovementioned term for all types of non-observance (Attardo, 1994, 275).

Grice's concept of conversational implicature was also criticized by some linguists. Bach, who disapproves of the notion of conventional implicature, suggests that Grice had overlooked some cases regarding the conversational implicature; specifically, cases in which everything is not said explicitly, by which he meant the cases in which the 'meaning' is not fully spelled aloud. He states that there are many cases of utterances in which their "standard uses are not strictly determined by their meanings" however, at the same time they do not produce an implicature neither are they figurative. As an example, he provides the following sentence: *I will be home later*, uttered by a wife. Bach explains that in this case the wife means later that night, not some

unspecified point in the future. According to him, Grice overlooked the phenomena² when part of what is meant is said implicitly, however, no implicature arises, even though the meaning ‘goes beyond sentence meaning’ (Bach 2006, 468 – 473).

Moreover, Bach states that “irony, metaphor, and other kinds of non-literal utterances are not cases of implicature”, as he states that in case of these utterances in which the message is not meant literally, the speaker says something and means something else *instead*, whereas in case of implicature, the speaker should say one thing and mean something else *as well*³ (Bach 2006, 473).

As seen above, Grice’s work was widely criticized, but it was also further developed and some alternations to his theories were made. One of the linguists who modified Grice’s work was Laurence R. Horn. Horn introduced his own principles, as he claimed that two utterances which have the same structure might have opposed meanings. Compare the following examples: *I cut a finger* and *I cut a nose*. Although these utterances are alike in the structure, they do not have the same meanings; *a finger* is automatically implied as *my finger* whereas when somebody says *a nose*, it implies that it was not the speaker’s nose (Mey 2001, 84). Therefore, Horn introduced Q-principle and R-principle.

The Q-principle (Quantity) is addressee-based and it says that the speaker should make his contribution sufficient and at the same time he should say as much as he can. The R-principle (Relation) is speaker-based, and it wants the speaker to make his contribution necessary, and states that the speaker should say no more than he must (Huang 2017, 159). The aim of the Q-principle is to guarantee that the information uttered is sufficient and the principle consists of the first Quality Maxims and the first two submaxims of Manner. The R-principle creates utterances that are “minimized” in form; it is formed by the Relation Maxim, the second Quality Maxim, and the last two submaxims of Manner. As apparent, neither the Q-principle, nor the R-principle are modified by Grice’s Quality Maxim – Horn stated that for a successful conversation the Quality Maxim has to be followed in all cases. A question what the relation between implicature and Horn’s principles is arises; both the Q-principle, and the R-principle

² Bach calls the described phenomenon *implicature*, and explains that during the process the recipient completes the utterance by adding the missing ‘pieces’ to the rest which is expressed explicitly (Bach 2006, 469).

³ It must be pointed out here, that in this paper the non-literal utterances such as sarcasm, irony, and figurative language will be categorized as implicatures. The reason is that I see implicature as an extra meaning in general, regardless of the relationship to the ‘original’ utterance. Therefore, the non-literal meanings will be usually categorized as Quality non-observant, as the speakers in these cases do not believe in the literal meaning of the uttered words, i.e. they know that the uttered words are not ‘true’, but at the same time, they are producing an extra meaning hoping that the recipient will be able to identify it correctly.

create and implicature (Horn 2006, 12-13).; consider the following examples: *Martin lived in Italy two years ago* and *John lost a pen*. The first example is based on the Q-principle, and the implicature in this case is that he does not live in Italy anymore. The second sentence is an example of the R-principle; here the speaker implies that the pen was John's. In the first case, the speaker provides as much information as needed, and the rest can be deduced, while in the case of R-principle, it is the circumstances themselves who 'speak', and the speaker provides the hearer only with relevant information (Mey 2001, 84).

Another linguist who altered Grice's Maxims was Stephen Levinson. Levinson introduced three principles: Q(antity), I(nformativness), and M(anner) – as well as Horn, Levinson omitted the category of Quality. Levinson's principles define not only what should the speaker say but also what should the recipient answer, i.e. every principle has two submaxims – one for the speaker and the other for the recipient (Huang 2007, 41). The Q-principle states that the speaker should not say less than he can, while the addressee's sub-principle is "what is not said is not the case" – the Q-principle says that the speaker's utterance should be as informative as possible (if possible, without semantically weak words) and the recipient should assume that the speaker did so. According to the I-principle, the speaker should not say more than necessary, while the addressee's I-principle says: "what is generally said is stereotypically and specifically exemplified"; to put it simply, the I-principle is about using 'semantically general expressions' to create a 'semantically specific interpretation'. Huang exemplifies the I-principle on the word *drink* – the speaker uses the general 'drink', while the recipient is able to recognize that the meaning is 'drink alcohol'. The last of Levinson's principles, the M-principle, suggests that a marked expression in an utterance is said only in marked situations (Huang 2007, 40-57). Levinson's principles can be further divided into more detailed sub-categories but as Levinson's theory will not be used in the analytical part of this paper, see Huang 2007, pgs. 40-54 for the more complex explanation of Levinson's typology of implicature.

The last theory which should be mentioned in this section is the Relevance Theory proposed by Sperber in Wilson, as this theory developed from Grice's Cooperative Principle but gradually became a pragmatic theory functioning on its own. The Relevance Theory shares with the Cooperative Principle one main aspect, and that is that the utterances should be relevant, on the other hand, Sperber and Wilson question many aspects of Grice's theory, most importantly the need of the Cooperative Principle and therefore, also the Maxims of conversation (Sperber and Wilson 607, 2006).

To conclude, Grice's Cooperative Principle and the theory of implicature influenced many linguists (especially those who are concerned with pragmatics), so that they either tried to find a way to contradict his work, or develop it, and in some cases even connect it to other disciplines. In one of the following chapters it will be explained how linguists connected humor and the CP, which will be the main focus of this paper.

2. Humor and Sitcom

For the purpose of this thesis it is important to define the term *humor*, and explain what sitcom is and why people find sitcoms humorous. One of the definitions of humor states that humor is 'something that makes a person to laugh or smile' (Ross 1998, 1). If we think about this definition, humor can be caused by various factors, among which we can find the factors that actually *are* supposed to amuse people, entertain them, and make them laugh, such as canned jokes or sitcoms.

What exactly is sitcom and why is it supposed to be humorous? Sitcoms, or also situation comedies, are humorous shows which are specific with characters who are potentially humorous. (Ross 1998, 89). These characters do not develop as characters e.g. in a drama TV show, throughout the show they rather remain the same. Characters in sitcoms have distinct natures, thoughts and opinions, and the humor is usually caused by the characters interacting with each other in a comic situation, i.e. by the possible clash between their opinions (Ross 1998, 89-92). The definition provided means that sitcom is (supposed to be) humorous because its characters have different points of view, opinions, nature, and sometimes even sense of humor. However, not every sitcom is funny to everyone – whether a person finds something humorous depends on various factors, e.g. the situation (participants, place), the target (what or who is being ridiculed), the logical mechanism (what is the humor based on), etc. (Dynel 2013, 27-28), which means that sitcoms are always written for a specific audience who find them funny. Generally, it can be said that most jokes have a target, more specifically, in every joke there is somebody (or something, such as beliefs, institutions, sexuality, etc.) who is being made fun of (Attardo 2017, 131).

In general, there are two types of jokes which may occur in a sitcom: canned jokes and conversational jokes. The former are the ones which can be found in joke collection books - in other words, jokes that can be transferred from one situation to another (Attardo 1994, 296), because the exactly same joke can be said multiple times, to various recipients, and during different situations. On the other hand, conversational jokes are heavily context-dependent, and

unlike their opposite, canned jokes, they were not used previously in other contexts. In addition, conversational jokes are often preceded by other (conversational) jokes, and that is how a single conversation may contain more than one. Sometimes it is rather difficult to differentiate between the two types (Attardo 1994, 296 - 299). From the provided definitions, it can be deduced that the more frequent type occurring in sitcoms are conversational jokes, as situational comedies use humor which is situation-based: *We have proof that aliens walk among us* is not a funny utterance, in fact, when the context is missing, the utterance might be seen as a breakthrough for the science and the human race. If the context is provided, the meaning of the utterance and the perception of it are completely changed:

Scene: Howard and Raj are trying to find Sheldon a girl through on-line dating.

Raj: We finally have proof that aliens walk among us.

Howard: Excuse me?

Raj: The dating site matched a woman with Sheldon.

(S03E23)

Suddenly, the reader (viewer of the show) knows that the utterance (from the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*), is supposed to be humorous. To fully understand the utterance and its meaning, the context is needed; with the context it is now clear that the utterance was not about a breakthrough which might completely change how the human race sees the universe but about a character in the show and his friend comparing him to an extraterrestrial being (because of his manners, behavior,..) – which is an example of a conversational joke, as it is heavily context-dependent.

2.1. Jokes as Maxim Non-observance

Now, it is important to make a connection between everything that was said about the conversation Maxims and humor, which is the goal of the following chapter.

Basically, many linguists see jokes and humor as Maxim non-observance, and there are various studies and theories concerning the humorous potential of Maxim non-observance⁴; Attardo mentions a study conducted by Aloysius Martinich who claims that some analyzed humorous

⁴ Some linguists, incl. Attardo, use the term *violation* for any type of Maxim non-observance (see Attardo 2017), therefore, the materials written by Attardo used in this paper were altered, and all the terms *violation* were changed, depending on the context, so that the term *violation* would be used in this paper only for the specific type of Maxim non-observance

conversations from *Alice in Wonderland* are caused by Humpty Dumpty's non-observance of the Relevance Maxim. Other linguists concerned with the Maxims and CP non-observance as a source of humor are Morreall, who introduced eight guidelines to produce humor by CP non-observance, or Leech, who talked about so-called *implicature failure*, which stands for jokes caused Maxim non-observance but without implicature. (Attardo 2017, 180). However, regarding the scope of this paper, all the theories concerning humor from the linguistic perspective cannot be described here, and therefore the following chapter will discuss Attardo's and Raskin's theories only, as they are seen as the most influential linguistic theories dealing with humor (Ruiz Gurillo and Alvarado Ortega 2013, 4).

To fully understand the relationship between humor and the CP, as presented by Raskin and Attardo, it is important to mention that by non-observing any of the Maxims, the speaker automatically does not observe the CP (Attardo 2017, 176).⁵

When the receiver relies on the literal meaning of the utterance in which one or more Maxims are not observed, the conversation may lead to a humorous situation. By using flouting the speaker provides the receiver with information which seems to be reliable and 'normal', however there is a 'second sense' in the utterance which needs to be identified by the receiver (Attardo 1994, 276). Attardo and Raskin call these 'senses' *scripts*, other linguists call these senses also *frame* or *schema* (Ruiz Gurillo and Alvarado Ortega 2013, 3). The term, originally from the field of psychology, was firstly connected to linguistics by Raskin in so-called *Script-based Semantic Theory of Humour* (hence SSTH) and then further developed by Raskin and Attardo in *General Theory of Verbal Humor* (hence GTVH), where the authors added more detailed explanation of how the second meaning leads to humor and also revised the theory, as the SSTH was applicable only to jokes, whereas GTVH may be applied to all humorous texts. (Ruiz Gurillo and Alvarado Ortega 2013, 3). A script is defined as 'a cognitive structure internalized by the speaker which provides the speaker with information on how things are done, organized, etc.' (Attardo 1994, 198). Attardo uses Raskin's example of a script:

⁵ Attardo and Raskin see any Maxims non-observance as being non-cooperative. It must be noted here, that some linguists, including Levinson (see Chapter 1.2.2.) consider *flouting* as a cooperative type of non-observance. As the aim of flouting is to make a hint so that the recipient would discover the underlying meaning (implicature), and therefore, making such a hint should help the recipient, not make him confused or even stop the conversation, flouting is perceived in this paper as cooperative (incl. jokes based on flouting).

Subject: [+Human] [+Adult]
Activity: > Study medicine
 = Receive patients: patient comes or doctor visits
 doctor listens to complaints
 doctor examines patient
 = Cure disease: doctor diagnoses disease
 doctor prescribes treatment
 = (Take patient's money)
Place: > Medical School
 = Hospital or doctor's office
Time: > Many years
 = Every day
 = Immediately
Condition: Physical contact

Raskin (1985: 85) Note that ">" stands for "in the past," and "=" for "in the present."

Picture 1 An example of a script: The Lexical Script for 'Doctor' by Raskin (Attardo 1994, 198)

The example of 'the Doctor script' shows that *a script* basically contains information about how something is normally done or perceived, the normal (common) features, etc. (Attardo 1994, 200). According to Raskin and Attardo, a joke is created by two scripts, which are somehow in opposition (Raskin 2017, 110), in other words, a joke is created in a way that the receiver thinks about a script, until he receives a 'hint' which makes him reconsider the message, and to think about the other possible script which would fit the situation. Consider the following Raskin's joke analysis example: *"Is the doctor at home?" the patient asked in his bronchial whisper. "No," the doctor's young and pretty wife whispered in reply. "Come right in."* The semantic reading of the script could be simplified as follows: someone who has medical issues is asking about the presence of the doctor who is supposed to treat him. Although the doctor is not present (which means that there is nobody to cure him), the patient is invited in by the doctor's attractive wife. The recipient might be confused by applying the aforementioned script, and therefore, there is the necessity to look for a script which would fit the situation. The recipient then has to re-think the script and take into account that there is an attractive woman and her husband is not present, which immediately triggers 'the Lover script'. As Raskin explained, this joke consists of 'the Doctor script' – meaning no sex - which is then switched into 'the Lover script' – meaning sex – and therefore it has opposition in it, i.e. it is seen as humorous (Attardo 1994, 206 – 207). Without switching to the correct script, the answer might be confusing, as it seem completely irrelevant for a patient who wants to be treated by a doctor.

Attardo provides another example of humorous Maxim non-observance in the following exchange: A: “*Do you believe in clubs for young people?*” B: “*Only when kindness fails.*”, in which the speaker B violates the Maxim of Manner, as he used deliberately an ambiguous word. The humorous situation in this case is caused by the polysemy of the word *club*. The speaker A meant ‘club’ as social club, consisting of group of people. However, the speaker B talks about the other meaning of the word *club*, meaning the weapon, which means that the B’s full response may be following: *I would use clubs on young people only when kindness fails* (Attardo 1994, 272; 276). The speaker B seems to provide reliable and fitting piece of information, however by choosing the second meaning of the word, the speaker B wants the speaker A to look for the additional meaning, in this case the other definition of the word *club*. What happened is that the recipient (A) has to switch again from one script to another, in this case ‘the Social club script’ to ‘the Weapon script’ so that it would fit the situation. The humor is here caused by the oppositeness again (social club = people peacefully interact vs. club weapon = used for harming people).

Attardo states that although the speakers are sometimes Maxim non-observant in order to create a joke, which might be seen as non-cooperative, the exchanges which include a joke are not non-sensical, and (in most cases) the participants are able to still successfully interact because the recipients recognize that what the speaker just said *is* a joke (Attardo 1994, 275). In other words, from Attardo’s (and Raskin’s) point of view, creating Maxim non-observant jokes *is* non-cooperative but the conversations can continue, as the recipients are able to recognize that the non-observant utterances were jokes and somehow they manage to remain cooperative even though the speaker broke the CP.

From Raskin’s and Attardo’s point of view it is possible to say that Maxim non-observance may lead to humorous situations, as one participant expects the other to be cooperative, i.e. he expects a relevant, true, informative, and clear response, while the other participant unexpectedly breaks one of the Maxims and creates a response which gives rise to creating the second script, or, the implicature. In the case of sitcoms, it is possible that it is not directly the conversation participant (receiver) who has to identify the humorous script but sometimes it is the audience.

2.1.1. Irony

In sitcoms, the audience may encounter various types of humor, from puns, to non-verbal humor caused by facial expressions. It was observed that in the case of the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*

(or generally, in all sitcoms), the audience are exposed to humor created in conversations between the characters. As the characters in this sitcom tend to use quite often irony and sarcasm, this sub-chapter will explain what irony and sarcasm is and then analyze its humorous potential caused by Maxim non-observance.

Generally, irony can be understood as meaning the exact opposite of what is said. (Blakemore 1992, 164). However, this definition fails in some cases, e.g. imagine a person saying with an ironic tone of voice “I just love sunny weather!” during a rainy day. In this case, the ironic comment is neither the opposite of the uttered words, nor the opposite of the speaker’s belief (Simpson 2011, 34 - 34). Blakemore argues that irony should be rather interpreted in the term of echoic use; the speaker utters something false, but through an opinion that is held by the other person, i.e. the speaker echoes that opinion and somehow (by the tone of his voice, facial expression) indicates that he does not agree with the opinion he uttered (Blakemore 1992, 108) – this definition is applicable in instances such as: *A: I am poor. – B: YOU are poor?!*, where the speaker B mocks the utterance of A. A similar theory was proposed by Sperber and Wilson, who claimed that there is always some ‘vague echoing’ preceding the ironic utterance (Simpson 2011, 37 - 38). Simpson provides a definition of irony which is more general and can be applied to more cases; according to him, “irony is the perception of a conceptual paradox, planned or unplanned, between two dimensions of the same discursive event” (Simpson 2011, 39), in other words, irony is seen as an unexpected reaction in a given situation. Simpson explains that this definition uses the term *paradox* on purpose, as it entails more than just *oppositeness* and it is possible to entail all the abovementioned ‘types’ of irony. It must be also noted that *perception* of irony is important; the speaker may have an ironic remark even though the recipient does not identify it, however, it is sufficient that the speaker’s intention is to create irony. (Simpson 2011, 39). From the provided definitions it is obvious that linguists do not have only one general definition for irony, and yet irony is not hard to recognize, mostly because of the accompanying indications Blakemore talks about. In this paper, irony would not be seen only as the opposite meaning but rather as an unexpected reaction which contradicts the speaker’s beliefs or contradicts the situation itself (as in the sunny weather example above).

From the previous paragraph it is obvious that it is not easy to define what exactly irony is. From the linguistic point of view, more specifically, Gricean point of view, irony is usually seen as flouting of the Quality Maxim: *I like the way you helped with the dishes!* Assuming that the recipient did not help at all, the utterance is the exact opposite of what the speaker believes to be true, i.e. the speaker here does not observe the sub-maxim “do not say what you believe

to be false”. As stated before, Simpson argues that irony does not have to be necessarily the opposite of what is said. Consider the following example: *It seems to be raining a bit* is an ironic comment when said during a rainy day; but not because it flouts the Quality Maxims, but because ‘the truth is so patently obvious’ (Simpson 2011, 36). This statement would imply that every comment containing ‘patently obvious’ information is ironic, which is not true. Whether an utterance is ironic or not depends on the environment; an ironic environment is an environment established by the speaker, as the speaker’s utterance is unexpected, and it reflects some kind of negative emotion which is then realized through irony in the speaker’s discourse (Simpson 2011, 36-37). Based on this explanation it is possible to generalize that irony is created by the speaker (and the speaker’s intention to create irony), no matter whether the recipient notices the ironic overtones or not.

It would be suitable to explain why people tend to create remarks with overtones which are ironic or even sarcastic, but first it is important to distinguish the terms *irony* and *sarcasm*. Although there were attempts to create criteria for distinguishing irony from sarcasm, it is still not easy to differentiate between them. The general tendency is to say that irony is ‘less aggressive’ than sarcasm, as both of them express speaker’s aggression. In addition, some linguists state that irony can be unintentional, whereas sarcasm cannot, or (if we stick to the definition that irony is caused by the echoic use) that irony is the echo of the speaker’s words and opinions, whereas sarcasm echoes opinions of somebody else. Attardo claims that all the attempts to create strictly given criteria for distinguishing irony from sarcasm failed, simply because there are cases in which it is not possible to differentiate between the two categories (Attardo 2013, 40). In this paper, the categories will be distinguished based on what seems to be less aggressive or more aggressive towards the recipient, but again, the categorization will not be strictly given, and the distinction will be made only by my personal opinion.

Now that we know what the terms *irony* and *sarcasm* are, it is important to understand why speakers use it. Dynel uses Gibbs’ theory to explain the use of sarcastic irony: sarcastic irony is often used in front of other people, so that the ‘target’ of the ironic comment is being criticized by the biting remarks of the speaker. The other people, who are not directly criticized and are usually amused, the sarcastic remarks are often humorous. (Dynel 2013, 291; 309). Dynel claims that in TV-sitcoms humorous scenes may be created by the so-called *Superiority Theory*: a situation in which the recipient of a narrative feels superior because he knows, or understands, something that the other character in the sitcom does not know or understand (Dynel 2013, 212). As to the differentiation between irony and sarcasm, Dynel claims that when the speaker’s

remark is too critical, it is rather called sarcasm, which is a sub-type of irony. In the case of sarcasm, the remark carries the humor although it is rather aggressive towards the recipient, and the main aim is to make fun, or even embarrass the recipient (Dyner 2009, 1289). From this definition it follows exactly what was told already in the previous paragraph, i.e. that the tendency is to see sarcasm as the more critical (even aggressive) towards the recipient. Consider the following example from *The Big Bang Theory*:

Scene: The movie theatre. The guys are standing outside and the line for the movie is incredibly long. Sheldon wanted to go an hour ago, so that the line would not be long, but the boys didn't listen to him.

Sheldon: Under normal circumstances I'd say, I told you so. But as I have told you so with such vehemence and frequency already, the phrase has lost all meaning. Therefore, I will be replacing it with the phrase I informed you thusly.

Howard: Ooh. Can't wait for that to start.

Sheldon: I informed you thusly.

(S04E08)

As stated before, the ironic / sarcastic utterance shows the speaker's criticism towards the recipient. Here the phrase *Can't wait for that to start* shows disagreement and negative emotions of the speaker, and what is more, it carries slightly aggressive overtone towards the recipient. The utterance is ironic despite the fact that the recipient did not notice. From the Gricean point of view, the Quality Maxim was not observed in the sarcastic utterance, as the speaker did not provide a truthful statement. What creates the humor is that the audience, in this case the viewers of the series, understand the ironic comment and are able to identify a script which would fit the situation – unlike Sheldon.

To put it simply, irony is used in various situations to show negative emotions towards the situation (or other participants of a conversation), and it is often (not always) created by flouting the Quality Maxim. The use of irony is often humorous to the persons who are present, but not directly the targets of the irony. In the case of sitcoms, ironic comments of one character may be humorous to the other characters, but the main goal of irony in situation comedies is to entertain the audience.

2.2. The Big Bang Theory

For better understanding of the analytical part of this paper, the series The Big Bang Theory and the characters in it must be described. The series started to be aired twelve years ago, in 2007, and since then it has been one of the most popular TV shows now having the rate 8.2, and having the 26th place on the list of the most popular TV shows (IMDb 2019).

The show started with a simple storyline: a clash of worlds between a new pretty female neighbor and her two nerdy male neighbors across the hall. The serious problem starts when one of the nerds falls in love with her ...

The show had at first five main characters, Penny, Leonard, Sheldon, Rajesh, and Howard. In the following paragraphs, the main characteristics of the persons will be described, so that the readers of this paper would have better understanding not only about the context but also about the features of the characters which may potentially lead to humor.

The first member of the ‘male geek-scientist group’ is **Leonard Hofstadter**. Leonard is an experimental physicist who lives with his colleague and friend Sheldon. He is a person who on one hand can be categorized as a ‘geek’ but on the other hand, he tries also to interact with ‘normal’ people. Leonard falls in love at first sight with Penny, which encourages him even more to find a way how to talk to non-geeks. The humorous situations stem from the need to belong to Penny’s world, and of course, from the difficulties of living with Sheldon.

Sheldon Cooper (B.S., M.S., M.A., Ph.D., ScD.) is the smartest member of the geek-scientist group who is proud of his education, his brains, and his rules. Shelly works as a theoretical physicist and lives with Leonard, whom he considers his best friend. From the viewpoint of others, his negative side is that he completely lacks social skills (and sometimes he even does not realize that). From his point of view, he is just excellent the way he is and does not need other human beings, however, he tries to learn social conventions so that he would prevent awkward situations. Although it was never mentioned in the series, from the characteristics stated above (and from his behavior in the series) it is possible to draw to the conclusion that Sheldon suffers from Asperger syndrome, and because of his obsession with order, plans, and cleanness it may be said that he suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder too. His differentness from not only ‘normal’ people (the non-geek people) but also from the other members of the geek group is the source of humor.

Another member of the geek group is **Howard Wolowitz**, who is ‘just an engineer’. He is perceived by the non-group members (especially by woman) as creepy or sometimes even

disgusting because of his sexual remarks. Howard and his best friend, Raj, would like to interact more with ‘normal’ people, especially woman – however, their behavior leads rather to embarrassing situations than to dating. Like Leonard and Sheldon, he works at Caltech. The aspects of his life often leading to jokes and humorous situations are that Howard is Jewish, likes performing magic, and lives with his mother. On the other hand, Howard is a person who has quite often biting remarks towards others.

The last member of the abovementioned group is **Rajesh Koothrappali**, who works as an astrophysicist, also at Caltech. Raj comes from a wealthy family from New Dehli and is often seen as too feminine (he loves Eat, Pray, Love, focuses too much on his appearance, etc.). As stated above, Raj and his best friend Howard were trying to pick up girls – the problem was that Rajesh suffered from so-called selective mutism, i.e. he was unable to speak to women. Later in the series he discovers that he is able to speak to them when he’s drunk. By the beginning of the 12th series, the only woman that stayed in his life was Cinnamon, his dog, with whom he has rather a weird relationship.

Penny is a character who is a complete opposite of the other members of the geek-scientist group: she was popular at high school, has excellent social skills, but in contrast to the others, she is perceived as uneducated. As to her hobbies, Penny is interested in popular culture and loves acting (her dream is to become an actress). Another contrast to the guys is that Penny does not have problems with dating (unlike the others), as she is attractive, so during the first series she dates (or at least talks about dating) quite a lot of men. The last interesting thing about her is that she tends to be sarcastic, especially towards Sheldon.

During the series two other woman joined the ‘team’. The first of them is **Bernadette Rostenkowski**. Bernadette is a microbiologist, who, during her studies, used to work with Penny in the Cheesecake Factory. At first, Bernadette seems to be too innocent, sweet, and even naïve – however, her true characteristics is that she is mean, bossy, and even sometimes verbally aggressive, which is the source of humor, as she is small, innocent-looking woman with a high-pitched voice. Bernadette dates Howard and marries him later in the series.

Amy Farrah Fowler is the other woman who appeared in the series and became one of the leading characters. Amy started dating Sheldon after Howard and Raj registered Sheldon to an online dating website, and Amy appeared to be a perfect match (or as Raj stated, “a proof that aliens walk among us”). When Amy joined the series, her characteristics were too similar to Sheldon’s – lack of social skills, no need to belong to the society, and so on. However, when she met Penny and Bernadette, she wanted to belong to the ‘girl’s team’ and started interacting

with them more, even though the lack of social skills sometimes leads to humorous situations, as she is not able to estimate what is and is not appropriate to talk about with other girls.

As the sitcoms is from the ‘geek’ environment, references to games, sci-fi movies, comic book characters, etc. occur often in it. For understanding these jokes, the knowledge of the abovementioned genres and activities is necessary, as it is impossible to understand for example a Star Wars reference without not knowing Star Wars or appreciating a joke about Wolverine when the viewer of the sitcom does not know who this character is. It could be said that the series mocks a little the ‘geeks’, as it makes fun of their incompetence to cope with the ‘normal’ world.

3. Analysis

The aim of this thesis is to analyze conversations from the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, and to observe how Maxim non-observance in the conversations may lead to humor. The hypothesis was that most of the Maxim non-observance is caused by non-observing the Quality Maxim, as it was expected that most of the conversations from the sitcom are using irony / sarcasm. It was also expected that different characters are non-observant of different Maxims, which is given by their nature: it was expected that Sheldon breaks the Manner and the Relation Maxim, as his speeches tend to be rather extraordinarily complex and he tends to change the topic, while the other characters (especially Penny and Howard) were expected to use mostly Quality non-observance, as Sheldon, who does not understand mocking and irony, is usually the target of their comments.

For the analysis a corpus had to be created; the whole corpus consists of 250 conversations which were selected randomly by opening a random script of an episode on the website <https://bigbangtrans.wordpress.com/> and selecting always approximately three conversations from one episode. The context, here also the *scene*,⁶ for every chosen conversation was described, either by memory, by watching the given episode, or simply by using the description provided on the abovementioned website, as in pragmatics, it is the context that is crucial.

The conversations were further analyzed and divided into the following categories (and later into their subcategories): Quality, Quantity, Manner, Relation, and Combination, always according to a Maxim which was not observed. The category of Combination includes

⁶ In this paper when the setting is described as ‘the apartment’, it is meant as Leonard and Sheldon’s apartment. Similarly, when the description of the scene uses the words ‘boys’ or ‘guys’, it means that all the main male characters of the sitcom were present, namely Leonard, Sheldon, Howard, and Rajesh.

conversations in which more than one Maxim was broken, more specifically cases in which either two or more Maxims were broken either in one single utterance or in more utterances throughout the conversation. For each category, subcategories were created – for the four Maxims, subcategories according to the type of non-observance (flouting, violation, infringing, and opting out) were created, and one more subcategory had to be added, and that is the subcategory called ‘more types of non-observance’, as there were conversations in which one Maxim was broken twice (or more times) but in a different way. The category of Combination has the subcategories based on how many Maxims were not observed, which means the subcategories are: ‘two Maxims’, ‘three Maxims’ and ‘four Maxims’. The whole corpus may be found in the Appendix (henceforth also *App.*).

As the next step, several conversations from the corpus were selected and commented into detail (see the following subchapters 3.1. – 3.5.), so that the reader of this paper could see what happened in the conversations from the linguistic point of view (which Maxim was broken), and how the conversations were analyzed before they could be categorized. In the vast majority of cases, the following subchapters also include references to similar cases which may be found in the Appendix, so that the reader of this paper could see similarities between the jokes appearing in the conversations.

As mentioned above, the following subchapters serve only so that the reader could see a detailed analysis which had to be done before categorizing the conversations; the overall results of the analysis described in a detailed way may be found in the Chapter 4., which was the last step of the analytical part of this paper. The Chapter 4. is based on the quantitative results from the analysis and discusses the use of various types of non-observances.

3.1. Quality

This subchapter is concerned with the Quality non-observance as a source of humor. The analysis showed that jokes based on untruthfulness or lack of evidence are very common in the sitcom. The conversations which were based on Quality non-observance only were identified in 59 cases (*App.* 1 – 59).

Quality Flouting

As mentioned previously, most of the characters have tendency to mock / be sarcastic towards Sheldon. Sheldon has troubles with recognizing irony and sarcasm, and that is what leads to

humorous situations, as the target audience *is* able, i.e. the target audience should recognize ironic / sarcastic behavior.

An example of a sarcastic response can be found in the following conversation:

- 1) *Scene: Sheldon was depressed last time the others saw him, and now he seems to be happier.*

Howard: You're in a good mood.

Sheldon: Well, it's a new day. I have a new outlook. You know, I realized I don't need to worry about other people. I just need to think more about myself.

Leonard: Oh, how will we ever get used to the new you?

(S10E09)

The exchange (1) might be seen as perfectly cooperative and 'normal', however, as the other characters in the show (and the audience) know, Sheldon is rather self-centered all the time, and therefore, it is understood that Leonard's response is not Maxim observant; in this case the Maxim of Quality is not observed, more specifically, it is flouted. As mentioned previously, in case of flouting an implicature arises. Here Leonard's sarcastic response *Oh, how will we ever get used to the new you?* implies that it would not be such a difference, i.e. Sheldon already thinks about himself, and therefore there would not be any 'new' Sheldon. Sheldon does not recognize that Leonard's comment is sarcastic, and therefore, he does not recognize the implicature either. Here, for the viewer to successfully analyze the implicature, the knowledge of the characters is important, as a person who sees this scene only may not understand that Leonard's response is not truthful, and therefore the viewer would identify the script in which the response is cooperative, not the humorous second script in which Leonard's flouting leads to humorous implicature.

A similar conversation to (1) is the following one:

- 2) *Scene: Guys are about to help Wolowitz move. Sheldon is confused about the reward for such a hard work.*

Sheldon: Hold on. You honestly expect me to believe that social protocol dictates we break our backs helping Wolowitz move, and then he only need buy us a pizza?

Leonard: I'm sorry, that really is how it works.

Sheldon: You're tricking me. You tell me the truth, what do we get?

Leonard: Raj, help me out here.

Raj: You get to choose between a mountain bike or a PS3.

Sheldon: I knew it! PS3, definitely PS3, who would pick a mountain bike?

(S02E19)

The conversation (2) is similar to (1) in the sense that Sheldon, again, misinterprets an utterance and relies on the meaning of the words only, i.e. he does not even think somebody could be non-cooperative, and implying something which is contradicting the utterance. The ‘problem’ in the communication arises from Rajesh’s response *You get to choose between a mountain bike or a PS3*. Sheldon believes that Rajesh tells him the truth, i.e. he observes all the Maxims, and therefore takes his utterance as a confirmation for his theory, that there actually must be some huge reward for helping a friend to move, not only a pizza. Here again, the flouting of the Quality Maxim was used as a sarcasm towards Sheldon. The possible implicature of Rajesh’s utterance might be something as: *Of course, you won’t receive anything valuable!* However, Sheldon repeatedly fails to draw implicatures from sarcastic responses, as he is not even able to recognize that the responses are sarcastic.

However, there are cases when Sheldon *is* able to recognize the untruthfulness of an utterance:

3) *Scene: The guys and Penny are watching Indiana Jones.*

Howard: Penny, if you think this is good, you should come with us Friday to see it on the big screen at the Colonial.

Penny: Well, I’m watching it now. Why would I want to see it again on Friday?

Sheldon: Because the print they’re showing on Friday has an additional 21 seconds of previously unseen footage.

Penny: What, 21 seconds? That’ll be like seeing a whole new movie!

Leonard: Exactly. They say it finally solves the submarine controversy.

Sheldon: Did Leonard? I’m no expert, but I believe what we just heard from Penny was sarcasm. (*Penny indicates it was*) Oh, good. I’m eight for 26 this month.

(S04E08)

In the conversation (3) again, the Quality Maxim was flouted in Penny’s utterance *What, 21 seconds? That’ll be like seeing a whole new movie!* The (possible) implicature *21 seconds is not worth going* was not identified by Leonard, as he does exactly what Sheldon did in the cases

(1) and (2) – Leonard does not recognize that Penny is not cooperative, and therefore assumes that Penny’s response is truthful and not sarcastic, although her gestures and the tone of voice imply that the utterance means actually something else than she says out loud, which leads to humorous situation, as Leonard relies on Penny’s words only, and responds in a way which would be accurate if Penny’s utterance was not sarcastic. This joke is then followed by another humorous utterance – Sheldon’s ‘happiness’ of being finally able to (sometimes) recognize sarcasm, as the score he mentions, 8 for 26, is still not a high number, which implies that Sheldon still does struggle with identifying non-cooperative behavior through sarcasm, which is here supported by *I’m still no expert* and *I believe*⁷, as by using these expressions, Sheldon shows that he is still uncertain about the use of sarcasm. This conversation is funny for the audience not only because of Penny’s obvious flouting of the Quality Maxim (i.e. using sarcasm), but also because of Sheldon’s ‘learning’ to identifying sarcasm, something, which ordinary people (the viewers) would not struggle with.

Quality non-observance is not used in the series only in scenes containing irony and sarcasm, but also as a part of humorous figurative language:

- 4) *Scene: The apartment. The guys are playing Rock Band, and they are performing the Red Hot Chili Peppers “Under the Bridge”. As Raj gets into the song, Penny enters and his singing turns into a squawk.*

Penny: Fellas, please.

Howard: Penny, come on, we were just finding our sound.

Penny: You found it. It’s the sound of a cat being run over by a lawn mower.

(S02E15)

The humor in the conversation (4) arises from Penny’s flouting of Quality in the utterance *It’s the sound of a cat being run over by a lawn mower*, meaning that Penny has just used a metaphor for the ‘music’ the guys are producing, and therefore, she used an utterance which is not, according to Grice, truthful, as the sound she describes is barely the same sound the boys are

⁷ Sheldon’s utterance in (3) was quite problematic to analyze, as the utterance contains *I’m no expert* and *I believe*; these parts of the utterance may be seen as Sheldon’s way to express his uncertainty with the information he is providing. This would mean that Sheldon has expressed his uncertainty about something for which he lacks evidence, i.e. he is telling aloud that he is not certain about what he is about to say. It follows that this utterance may be categorized as opting out. However, as I personally see opting out as ‘telling’ the recipient(s) about a planned Maxim non-observance, the utterance was not categorized as Maxim non-observant, as Sheldon’s aim was not to express Quality Maxim non-observance (even though he was not hundred percent sure about his assumption) but rather to share with Leonard his observations.

producing. To draw the correct implicature, it is necessary to identify the metaphor first. If the receiver tries to imagine *the sound of a cat being run over by a lawn mower*, it is probable that he imagines a sound which is very unpleasant. By using this metaphor to describe the music, Penny implies that the sound is very unpleasant, most probably that it is barely comparable to the original song; what is more, by the introducing utterance *Fellas, please* it is possible that the implicature arising from the utterance *the sound of...* is not only that the guys' music is terrible, but also Penny is implying that they should stop playing. In this case, Penny used implicature not only to insult the boys by comparing their music to something unpleasant, but also as a hint that they should stop. The humorous situation in (4) arises from the context itself, the audience does not need any knowledge of the characters, as somebody's comparison of singing to *a cat being run over by a lawn mower* is humorous enough, because the comparison is rather unexpected in an ordinary conversation.

The figurative language may be used in jokes for which background knowledge is needed, sometimes it is knowledge of another series / movie / comics:

- 5) *Scene: The boys are waiting in a line for Indiana Jones movie, and Wil Wheaton, Sheldon's enemy, is passing by.*

Wil Wheaton: Hey, look who's here! Hey, buddies!

Sheldon: Well, if it isn't Wil Wheaton, the Jar Jar Binks of the Star Trek universe.

(S04E08)

In (5) the Quality Maxim is flouted by comparing Will Wheaton, Sheldon's enemy, to *the Jar Jar Binks (of the Star Trek universe)*. For an audience who does not know who (or what) Jar Jar Binks is, the utterance is completely meaningless. However, for the audience who know that Jar Jar Binks is (by my estimation) the most hated character in the Star Wars universe because of his incompetence, the comparison is hilarious. Sheldon used here flouting of the Quality Maxim to implicate that Will Wheaton, who played in the Star Trek movies, is as incapable of a good performance, unwanted in the movies, and probably disgusts fans as much as Jar Jar Binks. For identifying the correct implicature the viewer needs to have some background knowledge about the Star Wars universe, otherwise the comparison is completely 'lost' in the conversation.

For other cases of jokes based on Quality flouting see App. 1 – 31.

Quality Violation

As seen from the previous paragraphs, Quality flouting is very common in the series and may be used for various types of jokes, from figurative language to sarcasm. For creating a joke, Quality is not only flouted but also deliberately violated:

6) *Scene: Penny meets Leonard's colleague David, whom she finds attractive, and she starts lying.*

Penny: So, are you and Leonard working on an experiment together?

David: Yeah, actually we are.

Leonard: Yeah, we're examining the radiation levels of photomultiplier tubes for a new dark matter detector.

Penny: Uh, sweetie, sweetie, Dave was talking. You know, I love science.

Leonard: Since when?

Penny: Since always. Call me a geek, but I am just nuts for the whole subatomic particle thing.

David: The last thing I would ever call you is a geek.

Penny: Ha. Well, that's what I am, queen of the nerds.

(S02E11)

In (6) Penny is deliberately telling something which is not true in order to impress Leonard's colleague. For identifying the violation, previous knowledge of the character is helpful, however, from Leonard's responses it is possible to deduce that Penny is lying even without it. The example (6) differs from the examples (1) – (5), as in this case Penny wanted to mislead David, whereas when sarcasm is used, it is usually expected that the receiver identifies the hidden meaning. Here on the contrary, Penny hopes that David would not identify the non-truthfulness of her utterances. For more examples using Quality violation see App. 32 – 46.

Quality Infringing

The next category of Maxim non-observance is infringing. The following example shows how unconsciously uttering something which is not entirely true (or for which the speaker lacks evidence) may lead to a humorous exchange:

7) *Scene: Sheldon and Amy were invited to celebrate Thanksgiving at Mrs. Wolowitz's house*

Sheldon: Do we really have to go to Mrs. Wolowitz's house?

Amy: We do. And I expect you to be on your best behavior.

Sheldon: Now I know how the African slaves felt. Being dragged from their homes to labor under the yoke of the white man.

Amy: Are you honestly comparing Thanksgiving dinner at Wolowitz's mom's with one of the greatest tragedies in the history of mankind?

Sheldon: Yes.

In (7) Sheldon compares the planned dinner at Mrs. Wolowitz's house to slavery. As he truly believes that slaves felt exactly like him, it is not classified as Quantity flouting (as majority of utterances with the use of figurative language) but as infringing. Sheldon does believe that his statement is true, whereas when it would be flouting, he would know that his statement just uses figurative language so that the recipient could image the message in a more precise way. Jokes base only on Quality infringing were identified in two cases only (see App. 47 and 48).

Quality Opting out

Quality opting out may be also found in the series - the interesting thing is that there is a made-up word used by Sheldon for suggesting the untruthfulness of his utterance:

8) *Scene: Howard and Raj are going to a goth nightclub.*

Sheldon: You know, I've always wanted to go to a goth nightclub.

Howard: Really?

Sheldon: Bazinga! None of you ever see my practical jokes coming, do you?

(S03E03)

The conversation (8) is a reaction to Howard's and Rajesh's enthusiastic plan about going to a goth night club so that they could meet goth girls. Sheldon's reaction *You know, I've always wanted to go to a goth nightclub* seems to be truthful. Only by adding Bazinga! Howard (and the audience) realize that Sheldon's utterance is sarcastic. Sheldon uses the utterance *Bazinga!* to show the recipient that his previous utterance was not completely honest, i.e. it marks the previous utterance as Quality non-observant. Therefore, the word *Bazinga!* may be categorized as opting out, as by uttering this word Sheldon admits that he flouted / violated the Quality Maxim. The most probable explanation for the usage of this word is that Sheldon struggles with identifying sarcasm and untruthful utterances, and therefore he created a special word which

would make it easier for his recipients to identify Sheldon's jokes, as he supposes that his audience may struggle with identifying his jokes too. In the case of (8), the preceding utterance may be classified either as violation or flouting, as it is not clear what Sheldon's purpose was. In the case of violation it would mean that he wanted to mislead Howard, which he did for a second, however, by adding *Bazinga!* he admitted the violation, and the aim to mislead was therefore lost. If the utterance would be categorized as flouting, there would be an implicature – in this case, it is not easy to draw an implicature, as it could be anything from *I think goth clubs are stupid* to *I don't think it's a good idea*. For jokes based on Quality opting out see App. 49 -50.

3.2. Quantity

There were 12 cases in which the humor arose from either providing more information than necessary or the opposite, the lack of information. This subchapter deals with the Quantity Maxim non-observance (App. 60 – 72).

Quantity Flouting and Infringing

The following examples (9) and (10) are from one episode, and they prove Sheldon's tendency to provide the others with information which are redundant, sometimes the information might be even seen irrelevant:

9) *Scene: The boys are eating Thai food.*

Raj: Are there any chopsticks?

Sheldon: You don't need chopsticks, this is Thai food.

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: Thailand has had the fork since the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Interestingly they don't actually put the fork in their mouth, they use it to put the food on a spoon which then goes into their mouth.

(S01E02)

In the case of (8) Sheldon thinks that he is implying enough by saying *...this is Thai food*, however, as he sees from Rajesh reaction (gestures), Rajesh is not able to draw the implicature *Thai food is not supposed to be eaten by chopsticks*, and Sheldon understands that further explanation is needed - instead of saying aloud the abovementioned implicature directly, Sheldon uses an utterance which provides too many information about the eating habits in

Thailand, i.e. by the ‘story’ he implies again that Rajesh does not need chopsticks for eating this type of food. It follows that in the conversation (8), the Quantity Maxim was not observed, as Sheldon used an utterance which is supposed to ‘educate’ Rajesh instead of giving him just plain information. (For an example which is based purely on Quantity flouting see App. 60)

It might be assumed that Sheldon provides the other characters with ‘extra’ information so that he would share his knowledge with the others, and, as he seems himself superior in terms of his intellect, he presumably wants to share ‘interesting’ information to educate his friends:

10) *Scene: Penny has just described her favorite scene from the Superman.*

Sheldon: You realize that scene was rife with scientific inaccuracy.

Penny: Yes, I know, men can’t fly.

Sheldon: Oh no, let’s assume that they can. Lois Lane is falling, accelerating at an initial rate of 32 feet per second per second. Superman swoops down to save her by reaching out two arms of steel. Miss Lane, who is now travelling at approximately 120 miles per hour, hits them, and is immediately sliced into three equal pieces.

(S01E02)

In (9), Sheldon wants to develop further his statement *rife with scientific inaccuracy*, so he explains to Penny why her favorite scene from Superman is so inaccurate. As the explanation provided by Sheldon is rather over-informative, it is obvious that in this case Sheldon again broke the Quantity Maxim. However, there is a difference between (8) and (9), as in (8) there was an implicature in Sheldon’s Quantity non-observance (*People from Thailand do not eat with chopsticks, therefore, you do not need them either*), whereas in (9) the Quantity non-observance does not include any implicature. As implicature is supposed to be a hidden meaning in the utterance, therefore, it cannot be said that the utterance *Oh no, let’s assume...* implies that the scene would not be possible in real life, as it was already expressed previously by Sheldon. The case (9) seems rather as infringing a Maxim, not as flouting: Sheldon uses words and phrases which are not appropriate for a conversation with Penny, as Penny has basically zero interest in science and math, which means that he is unable to express his thoughts in a way that would fit the conversation and would be understood by the receiver. What is more, the non-observance is not deliberate, and (as was said already), no implicature arises from Sheldon’s utterance – he just shares additional information with his friend, which is given by his character. For more examples of humor caused by Quantity infringing see App. 61 – 70.

Quantity Violation

An interesting fact is that conversations in which the humor was based on Quantity violation only, and Quantity opting out only were not found. These types of non-observances tend to co-occur with other Maxim non-observance, therefore they can be found either in the category *Combination* or *Quantity – More types of non-observance*.

However, for better understanding of how Quantity violation works, the following conversation combining Quantity violation, flouting, and infringing is provided:

11) *Scene: Bernadette mentions in front of Amy that she and Penny are having a girl's night. Amy wasn't invited to their party.*

Amy: Girls' night? What does that entail?

Bernadette: Oh, you know, girls get together, hang out, share girl talk.

Amy: I'm a girl.

Bernadette: Oh. Well, maybe you can join us. I'll ask Penny.

Amy: No need. Penny and I are very close.

Bernadette: You are?

Amy: Yes. In fact, our menses are synchronized.

(S04E08)

In (11) both Bernadette and Amy are breaking the Quantity Maxim. Bernadette is non-observant with her utterance *Oh, you know, girls get together, hang out, share girl talk* because she does not want to share any information about the girl's night plans, probably so that Amy would lose her interest in the night. As Bernadette used the non-observance on purpose, most probably to mislead Amy, the non-observance in this case may be classified as violation. On the other hand, Amy's stating *I'm a girl* is containing a hidden message, which is: *I'm a girl, therefore you should have asked me to join you*. As Amy's utterance is not constructed to mislead Bernadette but to imply that she wants to join their party, this utterance is categorized as flouting of the Quantity Maxim. There is a third occasion in the utterance which concerns Quantity non-observance, and that is in Amy's utterance *In fact, our menses are synchronized*. Amy does not realize that such information is redundant for the listeners (the guys are also present in the room), and that it is rather delicate. In this case, Amy does exactly the same thing as Sheldon in the previous case, which means that she shares too much information with the recipient

because of her character. Therefore, this case is categorized as Sheldon's non-observance in the case (10) - infringing - caused by Amy's lack of 'social skills'. In the case of Amy's infringing, neither implicature arises nor does she want to mislead Bernadette. The conversation (11) is therefore a beautiful example that humor in one conversation may be caused by the non-observance of one Maxim, but by various types of non-observance. (For *Quantity – More types of non-observance* see App. 71 – 72)

Quantity opting out will be exemplified in the chapter 3.5. *Combination*, as the instances occurred only in conversations in which two or more Maxims were broken and the present subchapter is concerned with Quantity non-observance only.

3.3. Relation

The analysis showed that the humor may be caused by changing the topic – willingly or unwillingly, for various reasons. The following subchapter presents Relation non-observance as a source of humor. The conversations in which the humor was caused only by Relation non-observance may be found in App. 73 - 81.

Relation Flouting

Conversations in which jokes are based on Relation flouting only are not very common in the series, as only two instances were identified. The following conversation is one of them:

12) *Scene: Boys are eating in the cafeteria.*

Leonard: No, seriously, I think I've finally figured out my problem with women.

Sheldon: The capybara is the largest member of the rodent family.

Leonard: What does that have to do with me and women?

Sheldon: Nothing. It was a desperate attempt to introduce an alternate topic of conversation.

(S04E07)

In (12) Sheldon is trying to change the topic of the conversation by an utterance which has nothing to do with the preceding Leonard's utterance. By saying something which is completely irrelevant to the topic, Sheldon hopes that Leonard would understand his dislike of the discussed topic, and that a new topic could be discussed instead, as he admits later in the conversation. However, Leonard fails to draw the implicature *I don't want to talk about your problem with woman*, and is startled by the sudden unrelated response. (For another example see App. 73)

Relation Violation

Similarly to Relation flouting, Relation violation was not identified in many cases, rather in combination with other non-observance. The following example is the only case of a conversation in which the humor is based on Relation violation only:

13) *Scene: Leonard is teaching Penny how to play chess.*

Penny: So, if I move my horse here, isn't that checkmate and I win?

Leonard: Hmm.

Penny: Well, is it or isn't it?

Leonard: You know, I think this is a good stopping point. Uh, it's your first real game. I threw a lot of information at you.

Penny: Well, no, I mean, your king is trapped. He can't go here because of my lighthouse, and he can't go here because of my pointy-head guy.

Leonard: Like I said, complicated game.

Penny: So did I win or not?

Leonard: Did you have fun? Because if you had fun, then you are, you are a winner. Now that's, that-that's what chess is all about.

(S05E18)

In (13), it is important that Leonard in teaching Penny how to play the game – Leonard, who is smarter than Penny. The problem arises when Penny, supposedly the 'dumber' one, beats Leonard in the game. As Leonard does not want to admit or say out loud that Penny is actually the winner, he does not answer her questions but tries to repeatedly change the topic. As the underlined utterances in (13) concern the change of topic, the utterances were categorized as breaking of the Relation Maxim. Leonard's aim is to change the subject, to trick Penny so that she would not ask the questions because answering them truthfully would be too humiliating for him. As this action is done on purpose, and the purpose is to trick (mislead) the recipient, the conversation was categorized as Violation.

Relation Infringing

Changing the topic because the speaker did not realize that he was actually doing so, i.e. for the reasons the it did not occur to him that he was doing something unnatural for a successful

conversation, occurred only six times as the only non-observance in a conversation. The following two conversations are examples of this type of Relation non-observance:

14) *Scene: Leonard explains why he doesn't want to pick up his mother at the airport.*

Leonard: Well, I can do without the 40-minute car ride where she criticizes every aspect of my life.

Sheldon: She can cover it in a car ride? I could do 40 minutes on your posture alone.

(S09E23)

In (14) Leonard complains that he does not want to spend more time with his mother because all she does is just criticizing him. A relevant answer would be a reaction to his problem, for example expressing compassion. However, Sheldon responds to the part of Leonard's utterance which he considers as the most relevant: *40-minute...every aspect of my life*, while he completely misses Leonard's implicature *I don't want to spend so much time with her because she keeps criticizing me*. Therefore, Sheldon is non-observant of the Relation Maxim by replying with an answer which is irrelevant to Leonard's problem, and to the topic of the conversation. Again, Sheldon does not do it on purpose, he rather fails to identify correctly the important part of the utterance, and therefore his reply is categorized as infringing.

15) *Scene: Leonard has some exciting news he wants to tell the other guys.*

Leonard: Guess who the university is sending to Switzerland to attend a conference and see the CERN supercollider on February 14?

Sheldon: Professor Norton, although, God knows why. He hasn't published anything of note since he won that Nobel Prize.

Leonard: Actually, Professor Norton can't make it. He threw his back out rock climbing.

Howard: I heard he threw his back out climbing on his new girlfriend.

Raj: The big-boobed weather girl on Channel 2?

Howard: That's the one.

Leonard: In any case, they're asking me to fill in for him.

Sheldon: In Switzerland or with the big-boobed weather girl?

(S03E15)

In (15) the Relation Maxim is broken several times; the topics of the conversation are as follows: Professor Norton (the person who should have gone to the conference in Switzerland) – Professor Norton’s girlfriend – the new person going to Switzerland. From this description it arises, that the Maxim was broken twice, first by changing the topic to the girlfriend, and then by going back to Professor. Howard’s remark *I heard he threw his back out climbing on his new girlfriend* might be seen as correcting Leonard, however, Raj continued to develop the “gossips” about Professor’s girlfriend. Apparently, Leonard did not like the change of the topic, so he went back to the conference in Switzerland (*In any case, they’re asking me to fill in for him*). The humorous moment arises not only from Leonard’s friends not willing to listen to him, and rather changing the topic to an attractive woman, but also from the last sentence *In Switzerland or with the big-boobed weather girl?* uttered by the last participant of the conversation, Sheldon, which shows that the changes of the subject were quite confusing for him, although the audience does not have any problem with identifying that Leonard is talking about Switzerland. In this case, the Relation Maxim was broken by simply the nature of the participants, id est by their lack of social skills (and in Howard’s case it is quite common that he changes the subject to anything sexually-related), and therefore, this case was classified as Relation infringing. (Examples of Relation infringing may be found in the App. 76 – 81)

No instances of conversations in which the humor would be based on **Relation Opting out** were found. Therefore, this type of non-observance will be discussed in the chapter 3.5., as it was found only in conversations in which more Maxims were broken.

3.4. Manner

Jokes based on ambiguous, unclear or too complicated structure were also identified in the sitcom, specifically, there were 25 instances in the analysis. The conversations with jokes based on Manner non-observance may be found in the App. 82 – 107.

Manner Flouting

Saying an ambiguous, blurred, or an unclear utterance with the purpose of creating an implicature was quite common in the sitcom. An example of flouting the Manner Maxim may be found in the following conversation:

16) *Scene: A conversation about plans for Thanksgiving*

Penny: Oh, you know, that reminds me, I usually go back to Nebraska for thanksgiving, but this year they’re calling it off on account of my brother’s trial.

Leonard: What's he on trial for?

Penny: Oh, just a big misunderstanding. You know, you'd actually like my brother, he's kind of a chemist.

(S03E04)

Penny flouted the Maxim by the utterance *he's kind of a chemist* when she talked about her brother. The preceding utterances are crucial to identify the humorous script, as the recipient has to pay attention to the word *trial*. The recipient immediately might assume that Penny's brother has problematic behavior or that he was falsely indicted for something. As the conversation proceeds, the recipient registers Penny's explanation that her brother's *trial* is *just a big misunderstanding*. However, this utterance is promptly followed by the explanation that *he's kind of a chemist*. If we assume that Penny really does believe in her brother's innocence, the explanation with the *misunderstanding* is seen as a true statement, and the following explanation *kind of a chemist* may be seen as Penny's naivety, as she truly believes that her brother is just a fan of chemistry. In this case the viewers of the show still recognize the humorous situation, as they identify the script in which *kind of a chemist* does not actually mean *chemist* – it must be noted that in this case there is nothing that could be called *implicature*, as Grice defined implicature as speaker's meaning, not as recipient's meaning, i.e. Penny did not create any implicature, as she actually says what she means. In the other explanation, Penny's utterance may be analyzed in a completely different way: Penny's utterance *he's kind of a chemist* might be seen as a Manner flouting if it is assumed that Penny knows about her brother criminal activities, and this is only more elevated way of saying *my brother is accused of selling drugs*. In this case, an implicature is created and it is on the recipient (Leonard + the audience) to identify it correctly.

Another example of Manner flouting is in (12):

17) *Scene: Sheldon is at Amy's place. He was forced by the university to start working with Kripke.*

Amy: Is everything okay?

Sheldon: I'm fine.

Amy: All right, well, how was work today? Did you exchange your research with Kripke?

Sheldon: Yes.

Amy: Sheldon, what's going on?

Sheldon: I read his research, and, it's leaps and bounds ahead of mine. Which means the mommy of the smartest physicist at the university is not my mommy as I had thought. It's his mommy.

(S06E14)

The conversation (12) is different from the previous one (11), as in (11) the recipient needed the preceding utterances to identify the humorous Manner non-observance. In (12), Sheldon wanted to express his insecurity about being the 'smartest physicist', so he used a rather complicated structure *Which means the mommy of the smartest physicist at the university is not my mommy as I had thought. It's his mommy.*; here, the humorous way of expressing his low confidence may be identified even without the preceding utterances. Sheldon used such a complicated structure to imply *I am not the smartest physicist at the university, Kripke is probably because it would be too humiliating for him to say it out loud.* As the regular audience of the series knows, Sheldon sees himself as a very smart person and it is hard for him to admit that somebody actually might be smarter than him. Hearing such structure from him might be seen as surprising at one hand (he admits that somebody is doing something in a better way than him), but completely 'Sheldonic' at the other (the way he admits it).

Flouting of Manner is used in the series also for jokes based on imitating other characters:

18) *Scene: Howard and Raj are in the cafeteria, talking about the correct pronunciation of one word.*

Raj: You're wrong.

Howard: No, I'm not.

Raj: Yes, you are.

Howard: No, I'm not. Settle this. Those little animated pictures on the Internet, are they called gifs or jifs?

Leonard: Well, the G stands for graphics. That's a hard G, so I'd say gif.

Raj: The guy who invented it says it's jif.

Howard: I'm sorry, do you mean the guy or the juy?

(S08E20)

The flouting in (13) is caused by the incorrect pronunciation of the word *gif*. The cause is that Rajesh is a foreigner, and sometimes (though not very often) he mispronounces a word or creates a structure which is not grammatically correct. Because Howard is 'such a nice friend'

he could not resist to mock him by the utterance *I'm sorry, do you mean the guy or the juy?* in which he intentionally mispronounces the letter g, as Rajesh in the word *gif*. The humor here is caused by something that would probably be said by a foreigner who does not exactly know how to pronounce certain letters, more specifically by Howard trying to imitate such foreigner. The aim of imitating Rajesh is to mock his pronunciation, and therefore, there is a 'hidden' (although very obvious) implicature: *Your pronunciation was not correct!*. As Howard created the implicature willingly and on purpose, it is categorized as flouting. In a case that Raj would be the one who gave rise to a joke by mispronouncing a word, the utterance would be categorized as infringing, as there would not be any 'hidden purpose', and it would only show Rajesh's linguistic incompetence - although this incompetence would be probably mocked in the following utterances by the other characters, similarly as Howard did in the example (13). (For more instances of Manner flouting see App. 82 – 94)

Manner Violation

Manner violation as the only source of humor was identified only in one conversation. The rest of the instances was identified in combination with other Maxim non-observance. The only instance is the following conversation:

19) *Scene: Sheldon is bored so he goes to visit Howard's in his lab*

Sheldon: I just came by to say hello.

Howard: I've been at this lab for three years, you've never came by to say hello.

Sheldon: Well, up until now I've had better things to do. So, what are we making today?

Howard: A small payload support structure for a European science experimental package that's going up on the next space shuttle.

Sheldon: Really, how does it work?

Howard: When this is done, it will be attached to the payload bay, and the sensor apparatus will rest on it.

Sheldon: Uh, huh. So, it's a shelf?

Howard: No, you don't understand, during acceleration it needs to stay perfectly level and provide... yeah, okay, it's a shelf.

(S01E12)

In the conversation (19) Howard uses structures which are overcomplicated so that his project would seem as important and complex. However, as the conversation proceeds, Sheldon (and the audience) realize that Howard used such a complicated structure so that he would not have to admit that his invention is just a regular shelf. The aim was to trick Sheldon, therefore, the utterances in the conversation were classified as violation.

Manner Infringing

In the previous subchapters it was suggested that the most common type of non-observance in Sheldon's utterances is infringing. Cases in which Manner infringing occurs were also identified:

20) *Scene: Penny suggests that Leonard and Sheldon should buy a dining table. Sheldon protests.*

Sheldon: We're not getting a dining room table.

Leonard: I know you don't like change, but it's not a terrible idea.

Penny: Yeah, you guys never use that space up there. Why not get a table?

Sheldon: Do you want the long answer or the short answer?

Howard: Hey, how come we never get that option?

Sheldon: Chaos theory suggests that even in a deterministic system, if the equations describing its behavior are non-linear, a tiny change in the initial conditions can lead to a cataclysmic and unpredictable result.

Penny: Translation?

Leonard: Waah. I don't want a table.

(S07E16)

In (20) the unnecessary complexity of Sheldon's utterance is supported by Penny's response *Translation?* in which she suggests that Sheldon's way of explaining why they should not buy a new table is rather difficult to understand. Because of Sheldon's character, it is assumed that he did not give such a complicated, inarticulate and rather confusing explanation in order to confuse Penny or to give rise to an implicature, but that it was an act which was given by the way he speaks normally, i.e. the non-observance was caused by his intellect being higher, and his vocabulary being more elevated than Penny's, and therefore this example conversation (20) was categorized as infringing. The humorous situation is then caused by the clash between the

character's speech and Penny directly asking for a *Translation*. Moreover, Sheldon's confusing structure was simplified, or as would Penny said 'translated', into: *Waah. I don't want a table*, which shows that the structure could have been said in a more understandable way, and at the same time, Leonard's 'translation' can be seen as mockery of Sheldon's utterance. (Examples of conversations based on Manner infringing jokes may be found in App. 96 – 106)

The analysis showed that the last category of non-observance, **Manner Opting out**, is not used in the sitcom for creating humor, as no instances occurred during the whole analysis. Therefore, this category will not be exemplified in this paper at all.

3.5. Combination

It is quite common that in a conversation more than one Maxim is broken; therefore, the category *Combination* was created. This category contains two types of combinations: the first type are conversations in which there are more utterances which break more Maxims (e.g. one utterance is Quality non-observant and is followed by an utterance which is Manner non-observant), and the other type are conversations which contain an utterance that breaks more than one Maxim (e.g. one single utterance is categorized as Manner flouting + Quality violation). Of course, there are conversations in which both of the abovementioned types occur. There are 142 conversations in the *Combination* category containing 458 Maxim non-observant utterances (see App. 108 – 250).

The following example illustrates that one single utterance may be categorized as combination of two Maxim non-observances:

21) *Scene: Sheldon is explaining to Leonard the problem with teleportation*

Sheldon: Here's the problem with teleportation.

Leonard: Lay it on me.

Sheldon: Assuming the device could be invented which would identify the quantum state of matter of an individual in one location and transmit that pattern to a distant location for reassembly, you would not have actually transported the individual. You would have destroyed him in one location and recreated him in another.

Leonard: How about that.

Sheldon: Personally, I would never use a transporter. Because the original Sheldon would have to be disintegrated in order to create a new Sheldon.

Leonard: Would the new Sheldon be in any way an improvement on the old Sheldon?

Sheldon: No, he would be exactly the same.

Leonard: That is a problem.

Sheldon: So, you see it too.

(S01E12)

Relation + Quantity

The joke in the conversation (21) is created by Leonard's utterance *That is a problem* and by the following Sheldon's utterance which shows that Sheldon did not understand his friend's remark. Leonard's comment refers to the problem that the 'new Sheldon' would possess the exact same qualities and character as the 'old one'. The response *That is a problem* does not refer to the topic of teleportation, and therefore, it may be seen as Relation non-observant, while at the same time it does not provide Sheldon with sufficient amount of information so that Sheldon would understand that the *problem* is referring to the 'new Sheldon being the same as the old one', which is at the same time seen as Quantity non-observance. Because of the insufficient amount of information, Sheldon misunderstands Leonard's utterance, and thinks that 'destroying the old Sheldon' would be a problem, therefore, he believes that Leonard is still talking about the teleportation problem and fails to recognize that Leonard's utterance is rather sarcastic. As the non-observances create an implicature and at the same time the utterance mocks Sheldon, it may be classified as flouting (of Relation and Quantity at the same time).

The following conversation is an example of a conversation in which three Maxims are broken (in three utterances):

22) *Scene: Sheldon asks Penny and Leonard whether they want to play a game he made up on Sunday.*

Penny: Actually, I have to pick up my friend Justin from the airport.

Leonard: There you go, she has to pick up her friend Justin at the airport, and I can't play 'cause I'm going with her, right?

Penny: Um, yeah, if you want. I mean, there may not be room. He's got a lot of stuff, like guitars and amplifiers.

Leonard: Wait. What are you talking about?

Penny: My friend, Justin.

(S03E07)

Quality Violation

Manner Flouting

Quantity Violation

The cause of the misunderstanding between Penny in Leonard is simple, Leonard believes that Penny's explanation is just a made-up story, so that she would not be forced to play Sheldon's game, in other words, Leonard believes that Penny is being non-cooperative towards Sheldon, and that she is violating the Maxim of Quality by lying to him. That is the reason why Leonard 'joins' Penny and his utterance *and I can't play 'cause I'm going with her, right?* is Maxim non-observant. However, the following Penny's response implies that she actually *is* picking her friend up on Sunday, and therefore, that she was cooperative and telling the truth. The humorous situation here arises from Leonard's realization of the situation, i.e. identifying the script in which Penny really is occupied because she wants to pick up her friend. In addition, Penny's utterance *I mean, there may not be room. He's got a lot of stuff* can be treated as flouting the Manner Maxim, as it is possible to draw the following implicature from it: *I don't want you to go with me*. The last utterance in the conversation is also categorized as flouting, but this time as Quantity flouting: by saying *My friend, Justin* Penny does not give Leonard any additional information about her friend, probably, because she mentioned the friend in the previous utterance already, and does not see that Leonard thought that she was lying, and therefore she only repeats his name to imply *I have just talked about him, were you not listening?* In other words, not only that the conversation (22) breaks three different Maxims, namely Quality, Manner, and Quantity, but it also breaks them in a way which is not consistent, as there are two types of non-observance, violation and flouting.

An interesting case is the following conversation:

23) *Scene: Penny wants to discuss something with Sheldon*

Penny: (Knock, knock, knock) Sheldon. (Knock, knock, knock) Sheldon. (Knock, knock, knock) Sheldon.

Sheldon: I bet that started off as a joke, but by the third one you realized there was something strangely enjoyable about it.

Penny: Yeah, I kind of want to do it again.

Sheldon: I don't recommend it. You'll be doing it the rest of your life. Anyway, if you're looking for Leonard, he's with Koothrappali.

Penny: Uh, no, I actually came to talk to you.

Sheldon: How nice. Here are some topics that interest me, quantum mechanics, trains, flags.

Penny: No, no. It's about my acting career.

Sheldon: Oh, sorry. That's not on the list.

Penny: Well.

Sheldon: Oh, wait. No. How about we split the difference and discuss why Austria was an archduchy and not just a regular duchy.

Penny: Okay, look, here's the thing. I like pharmaceutical sales, it's going great, but I have an audition for a movie, and if I get it, it could screw everything up.

Sheldon: Hmm. I know exactly what you should do. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you.

Penny: Well, why?

Sheldon: I'm attempting to turn over a new leaf. Earlier today, it was pointed out to me that I tend to force my ideas on people.

Penny: You're really not gonna tell me?

Sheldon: No, that train has left the station. Now, we can play this one of two ways. You can say, trains, tell me more, or you can just look at me like that and I'll start.

(S08E21)

Relation Opting out

Quantity Infringing

Relation Infringing

Quantity Opting out

Quality Flouting

This example (23) illustrates that it is not only possible to break more Maxims in one conversation but also to break them in different ways, as it contains five different Maxim non-observances: Relation opting out, Quantity infringing, Relation infringing, Quantity opting out,

and Quantity flouting. The first Maxim non-observance appears in Sheldon's utterance *Anyway, if you're looking for Leonard, he's with Koothrappali*. The utterance starts with *Anyway* which indicates the change of the topic, here from 'the pleasure / problem of knocking' to 'Leonard is not here'. As Sheldon says in advance that is going to be Maxim non-observant, this sentence is categorized as opting out of Relation. The next utterance which breaks a Maxim is *Here are some topics that interest me, quantum mechanics, trains, flags*. Sheldon is not aware that Penny (or anybody) might come to him and talk about something that actually might interest *her* (or them), and not Sheldon. As the audience knows, Sheldon does not behave like this on purpose, it is given by his nature, and therefore, this utterance was categorized as infringing. The Maxims that were broken are Relation and Quantity: listing the topics that Sheldon likes is seen as irrelevant regarding the preceding utterance. The utterance *Oh, sorry. That's not on the list* is an example of Quantity infringing. As stated above (and many times previously), Sheldon's behavior is not planned so that he would startle other people by his responses, it is given by his character, which is the reason why also this utterance had to be categorized as infringing. The reason for saying that in this utterance the Quantity Maxim was broken is simple: the utterance does not provide any information which would move the conversation forward, Sheldon rather states something which is quite obvious (given his favorite topics and his hobbies,...). In the abovementioned utterances Sheldon infringes the Maxims; in the utterance: *Hmm. I know exactly what you should do. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you*, Sheldon opts out a Maxim. By saying *I cannot tell you* he distances himself from obeying a Maxim, namely the Quantity Maxim, as by saying that he indicates that he is not planning to provide any information (in this case, any advice). The last type of Maxim non-observance used in this conversation by Sheldon is flouting. The utterance *No, that train has left the station* is a breaking of the Quality Maxim caused by using a metaphor – Sheldon is not actually talking about a train but using a metaphorical (and quite common) expression to tell Penny that he is not going to give her an advice, as it is too late (note: Sheldon explained to her that he wanted to change, as the others pointed out to him that he forces them his opinions all the time), and it is perhaps something that would 'the old Sheldon do'. Obviously, from all the types of Maxim non-observance, it is flouting, as the speaker (Sheldon) wants the recipient (Penny) to draw the implicature, which could be similar to: *I cannot help you now, I am trying to be a different person*. This sentence is followed by: *Now, we can play this one of two ways. You can say, trains, tell me more, or you can just look at me like that and I'll start*. In other words, Sheldon is saying to Penny that he is going to talk about trains anyway (and that is probably the reason why he used the metaphor with trains and not any other that would express the 'change'), which again

completely irrelevant to the topic she wants to talk about (and is trying to talk about) – her career. Sheldon wants to change the subject to the one which is closer to him, and he does so by simply starting to talk about it. He probably does not realize that such behavior is perceived as extraordinary, and that it could lead to the end of the conversation (Penny might get angry, walk away,...), so this utterance is seen as infringing of Relation again.

The category of Combination is the most numerous one, as the analysis showed that Maxim non-observance (for the purpose of creating a joke) tends to co-occur in a conversation with more Maxim non-observances, in other words, it is very common that for creating a humorous conversation more than one Maxim is not observed.

4. Results of the Analysis

This Chapter will discuss the overall results of the analysis in a more detailed way, i.e. the general tendencies when and how is every Maxim broken, the reactions of the other participants and the probable reasons why the fans find it funny. For better illustration of the discussed results, Appendix references (*App. – number of the conversation*) are used throughout the following chapter.

For the practical part (here also *Analysis / Analytical part*), 250 conversations were randomly selected from the online scripts of The Big Bang Theory series. Every conversation was then carefully read and categorized, based on the Maxim(s) which were not observed in it. The conversations were divided into the following categories: Quality, Quantity, Relation, Manner, and Combination. The utterances which were Maxim non-observant were underlined. All conversations divided according to the categories may be found in the Appendix.

For every of the abovementioned categories, subcategories were created; Quality, Quantity, Relation, and Manner have subcategories according to how the Maxim was broken, i.e. Flouting, Violation, Opting out, and Infringing. In addition, a special category had to be created, and that is the category *More Types of Non-observance*: this category includes conversations in which only one Maxim was broken but in two (or more) different ways. The category of Combination has the following subcategories: Two Maxims, Three Maxims, and Four Maxims, simply according to the number of Maxims which were not observed in the conversation.

As the next step, all occurrences (the underlined Maxim non-observant utterances) were counted, and further analyzed. The categories created for the quantitative results were according to the character who was Maxim non-observant, and a specific type of Maxim non-observance,

so that the analysis would specifically show which character breaks which Maxim and how exactly she/he does it. If an utterance was breaking more Maxims at the same time, it was not counted twice (in order to prevent distorted results), but it was counted in the following way: e.g. if there was an utterance, in which the Quality and the Quantity Maxims were flouted at the same time, 0,5 points was added to the *Quality Flouting (QltyFl)* column and 0,5 to the *Quantity Flouting (QntyFl)* column. For the utterances in which three Maxims were broken at the same time, the figure 0,33333⁻ was used. Utterances in which four Maxims would be broken were not found. The quantitative results of the analysis may be found in the Table 1:

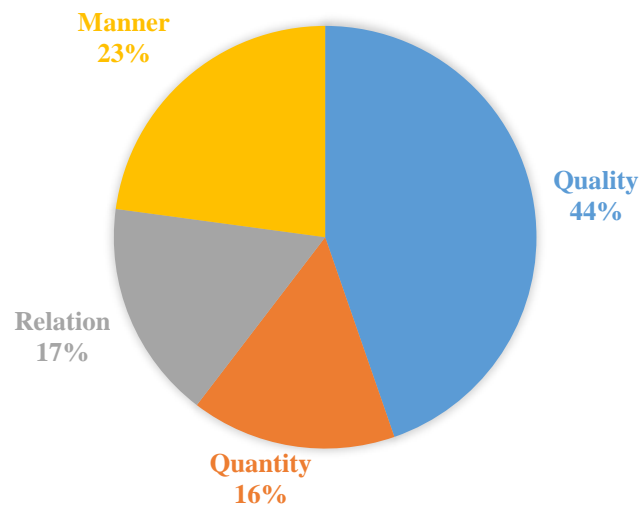
Maxim	Flouting	Violation	Opting out	Infringing	Total
<i>Quality</i>	187,2	68,0	6,5	10,0	271,7
<i>Quantity</i>	36,7	2,0	2,0	54,8	95,5
<i>Relation</i>	22,0	11,0	13,5	55,3	101,8
<i>Manner</i>	82,7	2,0	0,0	54,3	139,0
<i>Total</i>	328,5	83,0	22,0	174,5	608,0

Table 1 - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis - Maxim Non-observance in The Big Bang Theory

To start with the overall results, the analysis showed that in 250 conversations there were 608 Maxim non-observant utterances. The most used type of Maxim non-observance in the series is flouting and the most non-observed type of Maxim is the Quality Maxim. The person who is (unsurprisingly) the most Maxim non-observant is Sheldon. The results will now be discussed in a more detailed way.

As stated above, the Maxim which is not observed in most of the jokes is Quality, with 271,7 occurrences. The Maxim which has the second place considering non-observance, is Manner; the Manner Maxim was broken in 139,0 instances. Relation non-observance occurred in 101,8 instances and Quantity in 95,5 (see the Graph 1).

MAXIM NON-OBSERVANCE ACCORDING TO THE MAXIM



Graph 1 - Maxim Non-observance in The Big Bang Theory According to the Broken Maxim

Quality Maxim

As can be seen from the results listed in *Table 1*, using untruthfulness (and also ‘non-literariness’) for creating a joke, or in other words, Quality Maxim non-observance, is the most common type of creating jokes in The Big Bang Theory series. The Quality Maxims non-observance is used in various types of jokes, depending on how it is broken: the analysis showed that the most used type of Quality Maxim non-observance is Flouting (187,2 instances):

Maxim	Sheldon	Leonard	Howard	Rajesh	Penny	Bernie	Amy	Others	Total
<i>QltyFl</i>	49,8	38,8	38,0	10,0	28,0	4,0	6,0	12,5	187,2
<i>QltyVi</i>	9,0	20,0	8,0	5,0	18,0	3,0	3,0	2,0	68,0
<i>QltyOp</i>	6,5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,5
<i>QltyIn</i>	6,0	-	-	3,0	1,0	-	-	-	10,0
<i>Total</i>	71,3	58,8	46,0	18,0	47,0	7,0	9,0	14,5	271,7

Table 2 - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis – Quality Maxim Non-observance

However, it is important to note that the characters in the series use Quality Flouting differently, even though in all instances it must be used to create an implicature. Although it is hard to generalize the tendencies, it is possible to say that Sheldon uses the Quality flouting mostly for comparisons or other types of figurative language (*I am the William Shatner of theoretical*

physics – see App. 156), therefore for creating an implicature arising from comparisons, metaphors, etc., whereas the other characters deliberately break this Maxim so that they would mock or ‘hurt’ somebody else (Leonard to Penny, about Sheldon: *Penny, I told you if you don’t put him in his crate at night he just runs around the apartment* – see App. 165) or to sarcastically comment on the ongoing situation (Howard to Sheldon, in a biting tone *Can’t wait for that to start.* – App. 28), in other words, to give rise to an implicature which arises from knowing that they like the sarcastic sense of humor. Although it is true that in the series humor based on mocking and sarcasm is prevalent, the person whose utterances had the most instances of Quality flouting is Sheldon. The reason may be simply that the sarcastic and mocking jokes are divided between the other persons; the analysis proved the hypothesis that both Howard and Penny tend to use sarcastic jokes throughout the series, however, what was surprising is that Leonard had the approximately the same number of similar jokes, which was caused by his habit to ‘whine’ and ‘complain’ in a humorous way, plus the fact that he is the character who encounters Sheldon in most of the situations, i.e. he often reacts or comments on the situation so that he would ‘humiliate’ Sheldon and his habits.

Quality violation jokes are also quite common in the series; from the 608 instances of Maxim non-observances, 68 were categorized as Quality violation. It was observed that this type of Quality non-observance was used mostly by Penny and Leonard. The aim of violation is to trick (or mislead) the recipients, so it is not surprising that in the series the Quality violation was used for lying (Penny to Leonard’s colleague: *I love science.* – App. 43), or for persuading the recipients about being right, even though there was the lack of evidence (Raj about the correct pronunciation of the word ‘gif’: *For your information, there are four times as many Indians as there are Americans, so the way we say it is right.* – App. 212). The audience of the series is usually able to recognize the untruthfulness of the utterances, mostly because of either the knowledge of the characters or from the context which is provided in the episodes. In addition, Quality violation in the series is also recognizable because of the body language of the characters, the jokes based on violation are accompanied by a change of the tone, gesturing etc. The last two types of Quality non-observance are and infringing (10 instances) and opting out (6,5 instances). Both of them were used mostly by Sheldon. In the case of infringing, the joke stems from not being able to give a linguistic performance which would be suitable for the conversation, which may be caused by the speaker being a foreigner or unable to create an utterance which would be suitable for the recipient, or even by factors such as nervousness. In the series, Quality infringing jokes are based on the character’s thinking that they are right (Raj:

Mummies and zombies are the exact same thing. – App 58), although their recipients (as well as the audience) knows that their statements are not entirely true.

The last type of Quality non-observance is opting out. Opting out a Maxim is basically making the recipient aware, that a Maxim is not observed, and admitting so by using hedges. The instances of Quality opting out were found only in Sheldon’s utterances. Sheldon uses a special made-up word ‘*Bazinga*’ for making the recipient aware that he is using sarcasm (i.e. being untruthful, and therefore Quality non-observant). The use of this word and detailed analysis of an example conversation containing this word was discussed in 3.1. It is possible to say, that Sheldon made up his own hedging device signaling that he is about to opt out the Quality Maxim.

Quantity Maxim

As stated before, the Quantity Maxim was on the third place regarding the instances of non-observance but to correspond with the previous Chapter *Analysis*, and with the *Appendix*, the Quantity non-observances will be discussed before the Manner and the Relation non-observances.

Maxim	Sheldon	Leonard	Howard	Rajesh	Penny	Bernie	Amy	Others	Total
<i>QntyFl</i>	10,2	4,5	3,0	6,0	7,5	1,0	3,5	1,0	36,7
<i>QntyVi</i>	-	1,0	-	-	-	1,0	-	-	2,0
<i>QntyO</i> <i>p</i>	2,0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,0
<i>QntyIn</i>	42,8	3,0	-	1,0	-	-	5,0	3,0	54,8
<i>Total</i>	55,0	8,5	3,0	7,0	7,5	2,0	8,5	4,0	95,5

Table 3 - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis – Quantity Maxim Non-observance

Breaking the Quantity Maxim means that the speaker provides either too much information or on the contrary, that there is lack of information in his utterances. It is arguable which type of non-observance occurred the most in the series, as it depends on the point of view. If it depends on the number of instances (54,8), it would be Quantity infringing, however, the occurrences are connected mostly to one character. If it would depend on the type of non-observance which is the most used in terms that all the characters use it, it would be flouting (36,7 instances).

Quantity infringing is caused mostly by Sheldon, as he is unable to speak in a way that would be suitable for the conversation, i.e. he has the tendency to be too loquacious. The ‘necessity’ to provide the others with so much information (in most of the cases unwanted information) is probably caused by Sheldon’s nature, more specifically, from his feeling of being superior, and the need to educate others, maybe in some cases by the need to show that he has the knowledge of a given topic: *I cry because others are stupid. And that makes me sad.* (S03E10). It was observed that the Quantity infringing is often accompanied by the Relation infringing, as Sheldon tends to provide the other characters not only with too much information, but with too much *irrelevant* information (see App. 218, or App. 247 for an example in which Sheldon does not provide any information for making a relevant connection to the discussed topic). Of course, the audience finds funny the way Sheldon does not know the right amount of information he should provide to his friends, as in the case of infringing, it is not his fault that he provides the amount he does.

In the case of Quantity flouting, the speakers know exactly what they are doing; the speakers provide either less or more information than it is necessary, to give rise to an implicature (Penny to Leonard, who asked her who she was talking about: *My friend. Justin.* – App. 220). As in all jokes caused by flouting, the audience is expected to identify the implicature and the reasoning behind using the implicature. The character who is provided by such a respond, i.e. by a respond which either not informative at all, or on the contrary, over-informative, usually seems baffled – which again, leads to the viewer’s ‘joy’ that he/she understands the implicature, while the character in the series does not.

The other two types of non-observance, opting out and violation, were not frequent in the analyzed conversations. For example, Bernadette used violation when she wanted to mislead Amy about the planned girl’s night, and for that reason she did not provide enough information about the plans (App. 71). Quantity opting out was used in both cases by Sheldon (*Hmm. I know exactly what you should do. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you* – App 212). Both types of non-observance occurred only twice, which means that for creating the humor in the series, Quantity opting out and Quantity violation are used rarely. In addition, Quantity opting out was identified only in *Combined* conversations.

Relation Maxim

The third Maxim, Relation, is also on the third place in terms of the number of instances of non-observance. Non-observance of this Maxim stems from the speaker’s change of the discussed topic. The speaker may change the topic because of various reasons.

Maxim	Sheldon	Leonard	Howard	Rajesh	Penny	Bernie	Amy	Others	Total
<i>RelFl</i>	8,2	5,8	1,5	1,5	2,0	1,0	2,0	-	22,0
<i>RelVi</i>	2,0	5,0	-	-	-	3,0	1,0	-	11,0
<i>RelOp</i>	6,0	1,5	2,0	2,0	1,0	1,0	-	-	13,5
<i>RelIn</i>	47,3	1,0	-	1,0	1,0	-	-	5,0	55,3
<i>Total</i>	63,5	13,3	3,5	4,5	4,0	5,0	3,0	5,0	101,8

Table 4 - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis – Relation Maxim Non-observance

Attempts to change the topic willingly with the aim of creating an implicature were observed in 22 instances. The changes were made either because the character wanted the recipients to pay attention to his topic (App. 74), because the character was not satisfied with the topic and wanted to change it (App. 150), or simply because the character wanted to solve a topic which was relevant in the past but irrelevant in the present (App. 243). As other types of flouting, Relation flouting can be used for mocking (Amy to Sheldon when he had been choosing between the Xbox and PS4: *I can't feel my legs* - App. 202) by using the utterance to say something seemingly irrelevant to the discussed topic but with an underlying implicature relevant for the situation. The recipient is expected to draw the correct implicature and to react accordingly, however, in some cases the recipient fails to discover the hidden meaning – which is different from the audience.

Changing the topic for misleading / tricking /... the recipient (Relation violation) was observed in 11 instances, and almost half of them were uttered by Leonard – an excellent example is the scene in which he teaches Penny how to play chess, which was also discussed in one of the previous chapters (App. 75). The reaction of other characters cannot be generalized, as it is similar to the real-life situations – sometimes the speaker's attempt to trick the recipient is successful, and sometimes the recipient recognizes the attempt. What makes the audience different from the recipients is that the audience *always* recognize that the speaker is trying to change the topic to confuse the recipient.

Relation opting out, or in other words, changing the topic after expressing an attempt to do so, occurred only in 13,5 utterances, but what is interesting is that no conversation in which the humor would be based only on Relation opting out was found, as this type of Relation non-observance occurred only in the *Combined* conversations (Leonard asking his colleague out: *Anyway, I was thinking more of a bio-social exploration with a neuro-chemical overlay.* – App.

194). It is not possible to generalize with which Maxim and which type of non-observance it co-occurs, as no prevailing tendency was found in the corpus.

The most interesting Relation non-observance is infringing, which is also the Relation non-observance with the highest number of occurrences. The character with the most instances is Sheldon, as he is unable to speak to the topic, however, this inability is caused by his nature, and not by any intention. It was observed that another character has similar tendencies, and that is Leonard's mother Beverly (To Penny who asked her how she was: *Did you mean personally or professionally?* – App. 222), as both of the characters tend to respond to rhetoric questions, and do not understand polite exchanges. Moreover, Sheldon tends to rely on the semantic meaning of words, and that is why he sometimes does not understand that actually the word is used in a different, more figurative way, and answers believing that he actually is contributing to the topic which is being discussed. The usual reaction of the other conversation participants is that they just simply ignore Sheldon's 'speeches'. The audience of the sitcom find the Relation infringing funny because again, they are able to recognize what exactly is being discussed – unlike Sheldon.

Manner Maxim

The second Maxim in terms of number of occurrences, the Manner, was observed in 139,0 instances. Non-observance in this case is caused by the speaker's use of a structure which is either ambiguous, confusing, or not appropriate for the recipients in terms of the structure.

Maxim	Sheldon	Leonard	Howard	Rajesh	Penny	Bernie	Amy	Others	Total
<i>ManFl</i>	36,3	16,3	10,5	1,5	8,5	2,0	4,0	3,5	82,7
<i>ManVi</i>	-	-	2,0	-	-	-	-	-	2,0
<i>ManOp</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,0
<i>ManIn</i>	32,8	4,0	-	4,0	3,0	-	3,5	7,0	54,3
<i>Total</i>	69,2	20,3	12,5	5,5	11,5	2,0	7,5	10,5	139,0

Table 5 - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis – Manner Maxim Non-observance

From Manner non-observances, flouting was the type of non-observance with the highest number of instances. Manner flouting was used by uttering a structure which was ambiguous, so the recipient had to recognize the underlying ambiguity, or by a structure which was complicated in the structure itself; often the speaker was explaining an issue to the recipient

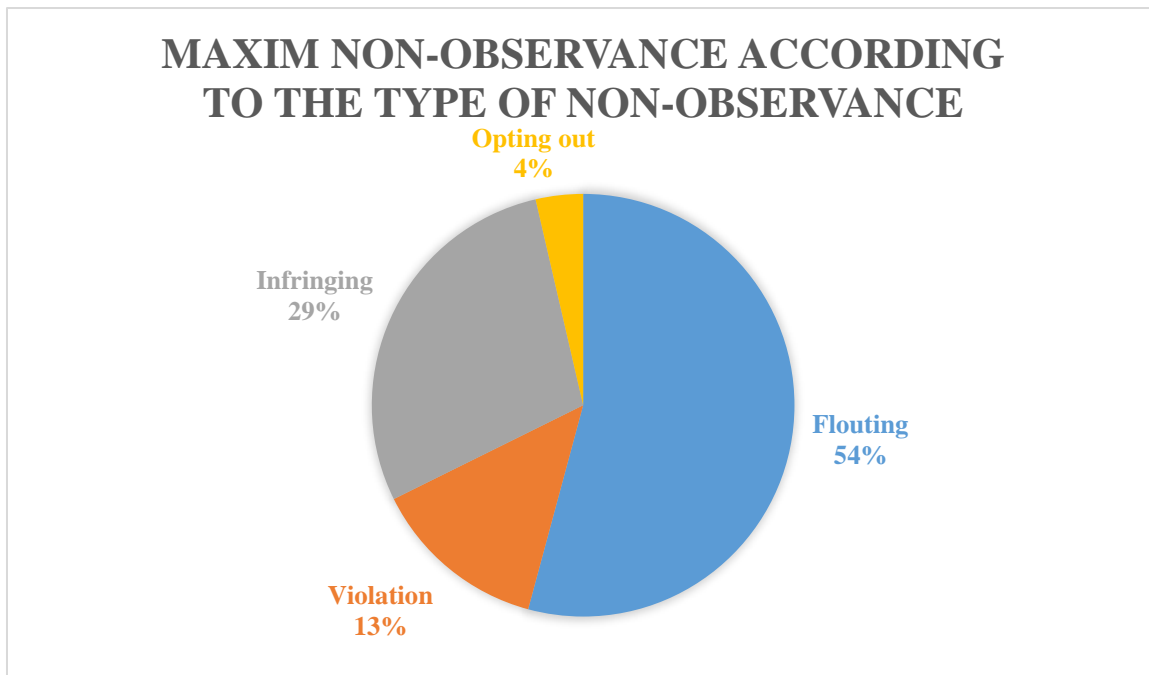
very indirectly, sometimes even hinting was used - and in this case the recipient had to ‘solve’ the implicature (Driving Howard to Sheldon who annoys him: *What about people distracted by irritating passengers?* – App. 128). In some cases, the recipient was not able to draw the correct implicature (as in App. 128), while the fans do. The analysis showed that Manner flouting is quite often combined with Quality flouting in (Sheldon to Leonard about why Leonard did not finish one project: *You thought of it September 22nd, 2007. Two days later, Penny moved in, and so much blood rushed to your genitals, your brain became a ghost town.* – App. 191), as the combination of figurative language and / or exaggeration and / or sarcasm (QltyFl) and a structure which is not direct and is rather confusing at the first sight (ManFl) creates a humorous implicature, and what is interesting is that in most of these cases the recipient did identify the correct implicature and reacted accordingly in the following utterance.

Manner infringing (as all the cases of infringing) was used mostly by Sheldon. The infringing stems from the usage of too complex structures, which are not suitable for every recipient (e.g. Penny). The rather complicated responses are not created willingly, with a purpose to show superiority or to mislead the recipient; the structure of the sentences is so complicated because the speaker does not even realize that the recipient may have troubles with understanding the message.

The other two types of non-observance, violation and opting out, are not important for creating the humor in the sitcom (of course, in terms of Manner non-observance), as the latter was not observed during the analysis at all and the former occurred only in two instances, in addition, both of the Manner Violation instances occurred in one conversation (App. 95).

The Most Used Type of Non-observance

The previous pages discussed the results of the analysis according to the type of Maxim which was unobserved. All the important matters were already mentioned, however, a more unified results according to the type of non-observance are still missing. From the Graph 2 (below) it is apparent that the most used type of non-observance in The Big Bang Theory is *flouting*, followed by *infringing*.



Graph 2 - Maxim Non-observance in The Big Bang Theory (According to the Type of Non-observance)

It follows that the writers of the series use flouting as the tool for creating humorous hints, comparisons, and what is probably the most appreciated type of jokes, sarcasm. Every character tends to use flouting differently: Sheldon for comparisons, exaggeration, and confusing structures which should ‘lead’ the recipient to certain thoughts. Howard and Penny for sarcastic comments and ambiguous structures to create a joke, Leonard tends to complain about the situations through flouting (very often in a sarcastic way), etc. What is important is that the audience is (or should be) able to recognize the hidden meanings (or as Attardo and Raskin would say, a suitable script) which stem from the use of flouting. Moreover, it is quite frequent that although the audience recognizes the implicature, the character in the series who is the recipient does not – which leads to entertaining the audience, and here, the *Superiority Theory* which was mentioned before, causes that the audience feels that they understand something while the character in the show struggles. As the flouting, more specifically Quality flouting, entails also sarcasm and irony, the reasons for funniness of seeing somebody (or something) being ridiculed is that the audience are not the target of the joke (or criticism, mocking,...), rather passive participants, or more precisely, only the ‘watchers’.

The second most used type of non-observance is *infringing*, however, vast majority was identified in Sheldon’s utterances. It was expected that Sheldon would have tendencies to break the Manner Maxim. However, the analysis showed that this character has a tendency to speak about matters which are not relevant to the topic and provide the other characters with an immense amount of information, in other words a prevailing tendency to be Relevance and

Quantity non-observant. The viewer is entertained because he / she knows that Sheldon misunderstood the other participant(s) of the conversation, and as a consequence he is providing the recipient(s) with unwanted and unrelated 'stream of words'. The most probable reason why this character is so popular among fans is that 'a regular person' (a viewer) would not respond in the way Sheldon does. The reason for Sheldon's responding in the way he does may be clarified by Attardo's explanation: if a recipient has a doubt about the speaker's utterance (in terms of the Cooperative Principle), the recipient can either assume that the speaker is Maxim non-observant, and as a consequence, stop making inferences, or the recipient can still believe in the speaker's following the CP, which leads to the recipient taking the utterances as cooperative, and therefore, not looking for a second meaning (Attardo 1994, 275). The explanation provided suggests that Sheldon truly believes in the cooperative nature of (most of) the conversations, and therefore, he does not even think that his friends could say something while meaning something completely different. In other words, he struggles with identifying a script which would be suitable for a given situation.

To summarize this chapter, the analysis proved that there is a difference between the use of Maxim non-observance depending on who utters the non-observant sentence(s). The difference stems from the personalities of the characters and their preferences in usage of Maxim non-observance for creating jokes. Moreover, the analysis proved that the most used type of non-observance is flouting, especially Quality flouting, as this type of non-observance gives rise to humorous implicatures.

Conclusion

The Big Bang Theory is a very popular sitcom and has an enormous fanbase. However, it was unclear how the jokes were created from the linguistic point of view. The aim of this paper was to analyze humor caused by the non-observance of Maxim of conversation in this sitcom, and to find whether there are any prevailing tendencies. The hypothesis stated that mostly Quality flouting would have the highest frequency of occurrences in the series because of the persistent occurrence of irony and sarcasm. It was also hypothesized that every character would use Maxim non-observance differently, specifically breaking different Maxims in different ways.

The theoretical part was based on the work of Herbert Paul Grice who introduced the terms implicature, Cooperative Principle, and Maxims of conversation. These terms were explained and exemplified, so that the reader of this paper could fully understand the differences between the four Maxims and the types of non-observances. The following chapters were dedicated to humor and irony, as irony (and sarcasm) is a frequently used tool for creating humorous utterances in the series. The connection between humor and Maxim non-observance was based on the work of Salvatore Attardo and Victor Raskin.

For the theoretical part a corpus consisting of 250 conversations was compiled and further analyzed – every Maxim non-observant utterance was categorized, based on the broken Maxim and the way in which the Maxim was broken, and who uttered the sentence(s). In other words, the results of the research should show which Maxim would be broken the most, what is the most usual way for creating humor (i.e. the most used type of non-observance), and who is the most humorous character in the series.

The analysis confirmed the main hypothesis, i.e. the most broken Maxim is the Quality Maxim and the most frequent way of non-observing is flouting; the analysis showed that the humor in the series is very often created by humorous implicatures arising from utterances in which Quality is flouted, as it is this specific type of Maxim non-observance that leads to phenomena such as sarcasm, irony, metaphors, and exaggerations, and all of these tools are used in the series with the goal of creating humorous situations, very often by the recipient failing to recognize the correct implicature.

The second most broken Maxim is the Manner – non-observance of this Maxim gives rise e.g. to jokes in which the humor stems from ambiguity. In these cases, the recipient was supposed to understand the underlying second meaning caused by the ambiguous structure. Moreover, the Manner non-observance was used for creating jokes based on infringing, especially

conversations of Sheldon and Penny were shown to be with high occurrence of Manner infringing caused by Sheldon, as the complicated structures he tends to use are not suitable for the recipient.

The analysis also showed that there are differences in using non-observant utterances depending on who utters the non-observant sentence; most of the characters use flouting for creating a joke - and are usually aware that a joke was created - , whereas Sheldon uses infringing without even noticing that his utterance might be perceived as a joke by the other participants, or by the audience. This difference is caused by the personalities of the characters, i.e. Howard and Penny have a tendency to be sarcastic (= Quality flouting), Leonard tends to comment on the situations, also sarcastically (= Quality flouting), while Sheldon wants to educate the others, so he provides them with 'interesting' information, and very often he fails to recognize the topic which is being discussed, as he relies on the semantic meaning of the words, which leads to his irrelevant replies (= Quantity infringing, Relation infringing).

To conclude, the analysis showed that Maxim non-observance may lead to a humorous conversation. The jokes may be created by all the types of Maxim non-observance, however, there is a prevailing tendency to use Quality flouting for the jokes, as it provides the opportunity to create jokes which are based on humorous untruthfulness.

Resumé

Teorie velkého třesku je populární sitcom, který má mnoho fanoušků po celém světě, což dokazuje i fakt, že tento americký seriál je vysílán českou televizní stanicí. Fanoušci jsou často schopni odříkat vtipné hlášky ze sitcomu; je ovšem nejasné, proč jsou tyto hlášky vtipné. Tato diplomová práce se zabývá porušováním konverzačních maxim v daném sitcomu za účelem vzniku humoru. Cílem této práce je zmapovat výroky, které konverzační maximy porušují, a dále najít, je-li nějaký druh porušování převládající, jaké maxima je v seriálu porušována nejčastěji a zda jsou rozdíly v tom, jak jednotlivé postavy používají porušování maxim.

Práce se dá rozdělit na dva dílčí úseky, na část teoretickou a praktickou. Teoretická část je dále dělena na dvě stěžejní části; část první vysvětluje základní pojmy týkající se konverzačních maxim, tedy pojmy *implikatura*, *konverzační maxima* a *porušování konverzačních maxim*, a je založena na díle Herberta Paula Grice. Konverzační maximy - podle Grice pravidla pro úspěšnou konverzaci - tedy Kvalita (zda je výrok pravdivý), Kvantita (zda je výrok informativní, ne však málo ani příliš), Relevance (zda se výrok vztahuje k právě diskutovanému tématu) a Způsob (zda není výrok příliš složitě konstruovaný, nejednoznačný, ...) jsou zde vysvětleny detailně, a následně je popsáno, jak se dají tyto maximy porušit. Dalším klíčovým termínem je *implikatura*, tedy skrytý význam, který je rovněž definován a vysvětlen ve vztahu k porušování konverzačních maxim. Druhý úsek teoretické části se zabývá humorem, tedy co je humor a jak může vzniknout humor pomocí porušení konverzačních maxim. Dále se v této části nachází kapitola věnovaná ironii, neboť tento prostředek je poměrně často v sitcomu využíván jako prostředek humoristický. Pro tuto část teorie sloužily jako podklady především práce Salvatora Attarda a Victora Raskina, a dále pak Marty Dynelové.

Hlavní tezí bylo, že humor v sitcomu bude založen především na porušování Kvality, a dále pak, že jednotlivé postavy budou porušovat konverzační maximy jinými způsoby; předpokladem bylo, že Sheldon bude nejvíce porušovat maxima Způsobu, protože jeho promluvy bývají složitě konstruovány, a dále pak, že postavami, které budou mít největší výskyt porušení maxim Kvality, budou Penny a Howard, neboť tyto postavy mají tendenci používat sarkastické komentáře.

Pro praktickou část (zde též „analytická“) byl vytvořen korpus čítající 250 konverzací. Konverzace byly vybírány náhodně; vždy za pomoci webové stránky, na které bylo možno najít přepsané scénáře z jednotlivých dílů (<https://bigbangtrans.wordpress.com/>), byl náhodně vybrán díl sitcomu. Z každého takto vybraného dílu byly pak náhodně vybrány přibližně 3

konverzace. Každá konverzace byla následně zanalyzována a byly vybrány a kategorizovány výroky, které porušovaly konverzační maxima, přičemž analýza ukázala, že ve vybraných 250 konverzacích bylo celkem 608 výroků, u kterých byla maxima porušena, aby tak dala vzniknout humornému výroku. Při analýze bylo u každé konverzace důležité, zda humor vzniká porušením maximy Kvality, Kvantity, Relevance či Způsobu, případně zda v je v konverzaci porušeno více maxim najednou – v tom případě byla konverzace zařazena do kategorie Kombinace. Dalším důležitým ukazatelem byl, jakým způsobem byla maxima porušena⁸, tedy a) vědomě, s úmyslem vytvoření implikatury, avšak mluvčí chce nadále být kooperativní (v angličtině tzv. *flouting*), b) vědomě, s úmyslem zmást adresáta, mluvčí v tomto případě není kooperativní (ang. *violation*), c) vědomě, kdy se mluvčí distancuje od dodržování maximy, avšak chce dále být kooperativní (ang. *opting out*) nebo d) nevědomě, kdy si mluvčí ani není vědom, že by porušil konverzační maxima, tedy účel promluvy je stále kooperace (ang. *infringing*). Pro účely zjištění, zda jsou nějaké vzorce v tom, jaká postava porušuje jakou maximu, bylo také sledováno kým byl výrok vysloven. Pro získání přesných kvantitativních výsledků byly vždy výsledky zaznamenány do tabulek, ve kterých sledovaly výše zmíněné ukazatele; nastaly případy, kdy jeden jediný výrok porušoval více maxim, popřípadě kdy jediný výrok porušoval jednu maximu jinými způsoby. Aby v těchto případech nebyl jeden výrok počítán do dvou kategorií, bylo zaznamenání výsledků do tabulky následovné: pro případy, kdy jeden výrok porušil dvě různé maximy, bylo započteno do tabulky 0,5, v případě, že výrok porušoval tři maximy, bylo započteno číslo 0,333333 (čtyři porušená maximy se v žádném výroku nevyškytly).

Analýzou se detailněji zabývají dvě kapitoly, tedy kapitoly 3. *Analýza* a 4. *Výsledky analýzy*. Kapitola 3. podrobně na vybraných příkladech z korpusu ukazuje, jak byla analýza prováděna, tedy jak byly jednotlivé výroky rozřazovány, a komentuje dopady na adresáta(y). Kapitola je rozdělena na podkapitoly vždy podle toho, jaké maximy byly porušeny, tedy Kvalita, Kvantita, Relevance, Způsob a Kombinace. Do podkapitoly Kombinace byly zařazeny ty konverzace, ve kterých je humor založen na porušení více než jedné maximy.

Kapitola 4. pojednává o výsledcích analýzy, tj. diskutuje, jaké jsou tendence u jednotlivých postav, jaká maxima je porušována nejčastěji a jakým způsobem. Výsledky analýzy ukázaly, že v sitkomu *Teorie velkého třesku* vzniká humor nejčastěji porušením maximy Kvality, a to

⁸ Vzhledem ke skutečnosti, že v češtině nebyl nalezen vhodný ekvivalent této terminologie, bude v práci použito opisné vysvětlení termínů *flouting*, *violation*, *opting out* a *infringing*. Ve zbytku textu se bude případně k těmto termínům referovat i jako způsob (porušení) *a*), *b*), *c*) a *d*), a to s počátečním malým písmenem na začátku slova způsob, aby tak došlo k odlišení od maximy Způsobu.

způsobem a), tedy způsobem, kdy si je adresát vědom, že porušuje maximu. Porušení Kvality způsobem a) se vyskytlo v 187,2 výrocích z 608. Tato porušení byla cílená, tedy za účelem naznačení skrytého významu, implikatury, kterou si pak má, v ideálním případě, adresát správně vyložit. Důvodem pro tak vysoký výskyt vědomého porušení Kvality je, že do této kategorie spadá nejen figurativní jazyk, který se často používá v tomto sitkomu například při přirovnáních, ale také ironie a sarkasmus, tedy humorné prostředky, které jsou zde častou příčinou humorných situací. Divák je pak většinou pobaven buď proto, že on chápe vtipné přirovnání / sarkastický komentář / ... , zatímco adresát v seriálu ne, nebo protože, divák může pozorovat vtipné a „kousavé“ komentáře vůči postavě, a přes to to není on, kdo je terčem kritiky (viz *Superiority Theory* neboli *Teorie nadřazenosti*). Výsledky ukázaly, že postavami, které nejčastěji porušují Kvalitu způsobem a) jsou Sheldon (49,8 výroků), Howard (38,0) a Leonard (38,0). Rozdílem ovšem je, že u Howarda a Leonarda se Kvalita porušovala především za účelem sarkastických poznámek, jízlivých komentářů, apod., zatímco u Sheldona převládalo používání pro potřeby figurativního jazyka, především pak metafor a přirovnání.

Druhou nejporušovanější maximou pak byla maxima Způsobu (139,0 z 608). Porušení Způsobu vede často ke vtipům, které jsou založené na dvojsmyslech, a proto se v sitkomu vyskytovaly především vtipy založené za způsobu porušení a), tedy cílené porušení Způsobu za účelem vzniku dvojsmyslných větných konstrukcí (82,7). Stejně jako použití porušení a) u Kvality mělo vést adresáta k implikatuře, i zde se při použití porušením a) očekávalo, že adresát, ať již přímo účastník konverzace v sitkomu nebo televizní divák, odhalí skrytý význam.

Co se týče jednotlivých postav, analýza ukázala rozdíly v používání (tj. porušování) především mezi Sheldonem a ostatními postavami. Zatímco u ostatních postav převažuje používání porušení způsobem a) (viz výše), u Sheldona je převažující tendence porušovat maximy způsobem d), tedy nevědomě (129 výskytů z 608), což je dáno povahovými rysy této postavy. Zásadní rozdíl je, že ostatní postavy porušují maximy ve většině případů vědomě, a to mnohdy za účelem vytvoření již zmíněné implikatury, zatímco Sheldon porušuje maximy nechtěně, a tedy nevědomě. V tomto případě je pak divák pobaven, neboť (na rozdíl od Sheldona) chápe, že došlo k porušení maximy, ať už tím, že Sheldon zvolil odpověď, která je až příliš komplikovaná pro adresáta v sitkomu, je nerelevantní k tématu, příliš informativní, či nepravdivá. Analýza též ukázala, že nejčastější typ konverzačních maxim, který Sheldon porušuje, není Způsob, ale Relevance, neboť jeho výroky se ve většině případů nevztahují k probíraným tématům, což si Sheldon neuvědomuje.

Analýza tedy ukázala, že v sitkomu Teorie velkého třesku se konverzační maximy za účelem vytvoření vtipu porušují velmi často, nejčastěji pak maxima Kvality, neboť v sitkomu má většina postav sklony mít sarkastické poznámky komentující situaci či chování jiných postav. Analýza rovněž poukázala na to, že tendence v porušování konverzačních maxim se mohou lišit v závislosti na tom, kdo vtipný výrok pronesl, neboť každá postava vytváří vtipné výroky jinými způsoby.

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Appendix

Quality Flouting

1) *Scene: The apartment. The guys are playing Rock Band. Sheldon is on guitar, Howard drums and Raj singing. They are performing the Red Hot Chili Peppers "Under the Bridge". As Raj gets into the song, Penny enters and his singing turns into a squawk.*

Penny: Fellas, please.

Howard: Penny, come on, we were just finding our sound.

Penny: You found it. It's the sound of a cat being run over by a lawn mower.

(S02E15)

2) *Scene: The apartment. Sheldon is recording a diary.*

Sheldon: Sheldon's log, stardate 63345.3. While my colleagues are off observing the Leonid meteor shower, I have remained behind to complete my paper on the decays of highly excited massive string states. Although my research is going well I do miss the warmth of human companionship. (He laughs)

(S03E08)

3) *Scene: Leonard is curious why is Sheldon learning Mandarin.*

Sheldon: I believe the Szechuan Palace has been passing off orange chicken as tangerine chicken and I intend to confront them.

Leonard: If I were you, I'd be more concerned by what they're passing off as chicken.

(S01E17)

4) *Scene: Howard has a new look: a moustache.*

Raj: I like the new look.

Howard: Thanks. I call it the Clooney.

Raj: I call it the Mario and Luigi, but whatever.

(S03E01)

5) *Scene: Penny's ex-boyfriend Kurt owns her money. Leonard wanted to help her so, he and the other boys went to Kurt's place and asked him to return the money. The quest was unsuccessful, and Leonard ended up with a note on his forehead saying "I owe Penny money". The next day Penny told Leonard and Sheldon that Kurt returned her the money, and that they are going on a date because she thinks Kurt is a better person now. She does not know about the little quest.*

Sheldon: Well done, Leonard. The true hero doesn't seek adulation, he fights for right and justice simply because it's his nature.

Leonard: Penny's hooking up with her jerk of an ex-boyfriend and I have indelible ink on my forehead!

Sheldon: That's your badge of honour, your warrior's wound, if you will. I was wrong, minstrels will write songs about you.

Leonard: Great.

(S02E04)

6) *Scene: The guys are talking in the cafeteria.*

Raj: You guys know the new Discovery class missions that NASA's been working on?

Leonard: Yeah.

Raj: Well, they're looking to include a message from Earth in case one of them is encountered by alien life.

Leonard: Oh. When I encountered alien life, I discovered that the key thing was not to sit in its spot.

Sheldon: All right, you can't breathe our air without an inhaler, he's allergic to Earth nuts, but I'm the alien.

(S08E21)

7) *Scene: The park. Sheldon and Leonard are taking a walk.*

Sheldon: I admire you, Leonard.

Leonard: Really, why?

Sheldon: You're happy with who you are. You don't get jealous of other people. Instead of being weighed down by ambition, you just float along like a dead body in a river.

(S10E09)

8) *Scene: Sheldon was really depressed last time the others saw him, and now he looks better.*

Howard: You're in a good mood.

Sheldon: Well, it's a new day. I have a new outlook. You know, I realized I don't need to worry about other people. I just need to think more about myself.

Leonard: Oh, how will we ever get used to the new you?

(S10E09)

9) *Scene: Leonard and Sheldon just had an argument.*

Leonard: I swear, that man is the most egotistical, insufferable human being I have ever met.

Penny: Yeah, but you two make such a cute couple. Like Burt and Ernie. You guys even teach me stuff about words and numbers.

(S06E15)

10) *Scene: Bernadette comes to the kitchen and sees that somebody has cooked.*

Bernadette: Stuart, you cooked?

Howard: How did you know it wasn't me?

Bernadette: There's only three people in this house, and you'd still be my fifth guess.

(S10E10)

11) *Scene: Leonard complains that Penny did not do anything romantic for him.*

Penny: Okay, just you wait and see. I'm gonna romance your freakin' ass off.

Leonard: That's beautiful. Is that Shakespeare?

(S07E06)

12) Scene: Leonard and Penny have just returned to the apartment

Sheldon: As you know, Amy and I have been together a long time, and a lot of things I never thought possible now seem possible.

Penny: Okay.

Amy: After a careful evaluation of our relationship, we decided that the time was right to take a step forward.

Leonard: Okay.

Sheldon: Do you want to say it?

Amy: Let's say it together.

Together: We're getting a turtle.

Penny: This is why I've been saying we should keep champagne on ice.

(S08E17)

13) Scene: Raj is in his girlfriend's (Emily) apartment. He was snooping through one of her drawers and broke it. Howard is on the phone to solve the situation before Emily gets back.

Howard: Okay, let me see the damage.

Raj: Hang on.

Howard: Well, I think you broke the dowels. You're not gonna have time to glue it back on, you'll have to nail it.

Raj: With what?

Howard: Does she have any pillows or wine glasses?

Raj: She does.

Howard: Great. Neither of those. Try a hammer.

(S08E17)

14) Scene: Sheldon states that Leonard has changed way too much because of Penny.

Penny: Okay, I have not tried to change Leonard. That's just what happens in relationships. Look how much Amy's changed you.

Sheldon: That's not true.

Penny: Oh, please. When I first met you, you were incapable of touching another human being. Now you're holding hands, you're going on dates, you even made out with her on a train.

Sheldon: She told you?

Penny: Of course she told me, it's the most interesting thing that's ever happened to her in her entire life.

Leonard: You're too close to it, but Amy has had a huge impact on you.

Sheldon: You're right. Without realizing it, I've allowed that woman to alter my personality.

Leonard: Mm, Sheldon, you didn't have a personality, you just had some shows you liked.

Sheldon: No. No, I've changed. Like the frog who's put in a pot of water that's heated so gradually he doesn't realize he's boiling to death.

Penny: Or you're the frog who's been kissed by a princess and turned into a prince.

Leonard: Or you're just a tall, annoying frog.

Sheldon: Excuse me. I have to break up with my girlfriend.

(S07E16)

15) Scene: Howard and Raj 'kidnap' Leonard because they have prepared a bachelor party for him. They are going to the party in a hired van.

Sheldon: It's bad enough I'm being taken against my will. I don't see why it has to be in some hippie's mobile sex dungeon.

Howard: Well, Sheldon, there's something about this van that you're going to find very interesting.

Sheldon: It runs on syphilis?

Raj: This van was owned and driven by your personal physics hero, Richard Feynman.

(09E03)

16) Scene: Penny enters the boys' apartment.

Howard: Go. Come on, Raj.

Leonard: You can do this.

Sheldon: There's no way.

Penny: What is happening?

Leonard: This is an Euler's Disk. It's a physics toy that demonstrates angular momentum, potential energy, and kinetic energy.

Penny: Aw, look at you watching sports.

Howard: We're betting to see if Koothrappali can hold his breath longer than the disk can spin.

Sheldon: Its weight and smoothness, along with the slight concavity of the mirror, means it can spin for a long time.

Leonard: But Raj is from India, which means he's no slouch at holding his breath.

(S10E16)

17) Scene: Leonard and his girlfriend Priya, who is Raj's sister, had an argument last night.

Leonard: Did your sister say anything when you got home last night?

Raj: Oh, no, don't put me in the middle of this. I'm not going to be your go-between.

Leonard: Come on, help me out. Am I in trouble?

Raj: There's no reason to worry.

Leonard: That's a relief.

Raj: I'm sure many women in happy relationships spend their nights skyping with their ex-boyfriend Sanjay.

(S04E19)

18) Scene: The boys are waiting in a line for Indiana Jones movie, and Wil Wheaton, Sheldon's enemy, is passing by.

Wil Wheaton: Hey, look who's here! Hey, buddies!

Sheldon: Well, if it isn't Wil Wheaton, the Jar Jar Binks of the Star Trek universe.

(S04E08)

19) Scene: Somebody has hacked Sheldon's World of Warcraft account and robbed him.

Sheldon: Three thousand hours. Three thousand hours clicking on that mouse, collecting weapons and gold. It's almost as if it was a huge waste of time.

Howard: Whoever did this knew what they were doing. He got in and out of your account in under 15 minutes, transferred all your stuff, and didn't leave a digital fingerprint.

Sheldon: Oh! There isn't enough chamomile tea in the world to quell the rage in my heart.

(S04E19)

20) Scene: Raj has prepared a scavenger hunt for the others. Howard is teamed up with Amy, and their first task is to solve a puzzle.

Howard: Wow, you're really good at puzzles.

Amy: I did them all the time as a kid. As my mom used to say, when you're doing a puzzle, it's like having a thousand friends. She was full of fun lies like that.

Howard: If it makes you feel any better, my mom's just full of pound cake.

Amy: I'm sorry you got stuck with me. I bet you wanted to be with Bernadette.

Howard: Have you ever played a game with Bernadette?

Amy: No.

Howard: Have you ever gone into a steel cage with a wolverine?

(S07E03)

21) Scene: Sheldon saw Penny's apartment for the first time and discovered that it is rather a messy place. Sheldon can't sleep during the night because he is obsessed with cleanness, and decides to break into Penny's apartment and clean it. Leonard finds it out and tries to show disapproval of Sheldon's action.

Sheldon: Morning.

Leonard: Morning.

Sheldon: I have to say, I slept splendidly. Granted, not long, but just deeply and well.

Leonard: I'm not surprised. A well-known folk cure for insomnia is to break into your neighbor's apartment and clean.

Sheldon: Sarcasm?

Leonard: You think?

Sheldon: Granted, my methods may have been somewhat unorthodox, but I think the end result will be a measurable enhancement of Penny's quality of life.

Leonard: You know what, you've convinced me, maybe tonight we should sneak in and shampoo her carpet.

Sheldon: You don't think that crosses a line?

Leonard: Yes! For God's sake, Sheldon, do I have to hold up a sarcasm sign every time I open my mouth.

Sheldon: You have a sarcasm sign?

Leonard: No, I do not have a sarcasm sign.

(S01E02)

22) Scene: *The guys and Penny are watching Indiana Jones*

Howard: Penny, if you think this is good, you should come with us Friday to see it on the big screen at the Colonial.

Penny: Well, I'm watching it now. Why would I want to see it again on Friday?

Sheldon: Because the print they're showing on Friday has an additional 21 seconds of previously unseen footage.

Penny: What, 21 seconds? That'll be like seeing a whole new movie!

Leonard: Exactly. They say it finally solves the submarine controversy.

Sheldon: Leonard? I'm no expert, but I believe what we just heard from Penny was sarcasm. (She indicates it was) Oh, good. I'm eight for 26 this month.

(S04E08)

23) Scene: *Leonard's mother has just told Leonard that she wants to divorce his father*

Beverley: He was cheating on me.

Leonard: No!

Beverley: Yes, with some waitress from the university cafeteria. Can you believe it? A waitress? Oh, no offense, dear.

Penny: No, it sounded like a compliment.

(S03E11)

24) Scene: *Amy is on a first date with a British guy.*

Tall British Dave: This is fun. I haven't dated much since my divorce.

Amy: Well, I'm having a good time, too. If you don't mind me asking, why did you and your wife split up?

Dave: Oh, you know how it is, we wanted different things. I wanted children, and she wanted a pastry chef named Jean-Philippe.

Amy: Oh, I'm, I'm so sorry.

Dave: No, it's, it's fine. It's why I left England. It reminded me too much of her. Cold, gloomy and easily accessed by a Frenchman through a tunnel.

(S09E08)

25) Scene: *Howard is telling Sheldon's mom that he's going to space.*

Mrs. Cooper: I bet your mom is really proud of you.

Howard: Nope. She says if I don't back out she's going to go on a hunger strike. It would take years before she'd be in any kind of danger, but still.

(S05E06)

26) *Scene: Howard is going to meet Stephen Hawking, Sheldon's idol, and because Sheldon insulted Howard, he doesn't want to take Sheldon with him.*

Howard: Sheldon, you're a condescending jerk. Why on earth would I want to do something nice for you?

Sheldon: Um, to go to Jewish heaven?

Howard: Jews don't have heaven.

Sheldon: Then to avoid Jewish hell?

Howard: Have you met my mother? I live in Jewish hell.

(S05E21)

27) *Scene: Howard and Raj are trying to find Sheldon a girl through on-line dating.*

Raj: We finally have proof that aliens walk among us.

Howard: Excuse me?

Raj: The dating site matched a woman with Sheldon.

(S03E23)

28) *Scene: The movie theatre. The boys are standing outside and the line for the movie is incredibly long. Sheldon wanted to go an hour ago, so that the line wouldn't be long, but the boys didn't listen to him.*

Sheldon: Under normal circumstances I'd say, I told you so. But as I have told you so with such vehemence and frequency already, the phrase has lost all meaning. Therefore, I will be replacing it with the phrase I informed you thusly.

Howard: Ooh. Can't wait for that to start.

Sheldon: I informed you thusly.

(S04E08)

29) *Scene: It is Amy's birthday and Sheldon has prepared a dinner for her.*

Sheldon: So, can I get you anything else?

Amy: No thanks, I think I'm good.

Sheldon: You sure? There's still plenty of pork fat. Although if we don't eat it, I suppose we could turn it into soap.

Amy: That might taste better.

(S11E11)

30) *Scene: The characters are playing ,Never have I ever'*

Leonard: Okay, I'll go. Never have I ever been arrested.

Sheldon: So I drink.

Amy: No, it's only if you've done it.

Sheldon: Got it. (Sheldon drinks)

Amy: I can't believe you've been arrested.

Sheldon: I can't believe Penny hasn't.

Penny: Sheldon, what did you do?

Sheldon: Well, I'm not proud of it, but I jaywalked.

Leonard: Oh, no, it's like a horror movie. We're trapped in a cabin with a maniac.

(S09E20)

31) Scene: Penny is returning from work.

Leonard: Hey, Penny. How was work?

Penny: Great. I hope I'm a waitress at the Cheesecake Factory for my whole life.

Sheldon: Was that sarcasm?

Penny: No.

Sheldon: Was that sarcasm?

Penny: Yes.

(S02E14)

Quality Violation

32) Scene: Sheldon was eating dinner with Penny but he doesn't want to tell Leonard, because Penny broke up with him, and Shelly is afraid that he might get upset.

Leonard: Hey, where you been?

Sheldon: I told you, walking.

Leonard: For an hour and a half?

Sheldon: I got lost.

Leonard: How could you get lost? Your phone has GPS.

Sheldon: Satellites are down. Solar flares.

Raj: There are no solar flares right now.

Sheldon: Yes, there are.

Raj: Dude, I'm an astrophysicist. If there were solar flares, I'd be all up in it.

Sheldon: I'm sorry. I misspoke. What I meant to say was my battery died.

(S03E20)

33) Scene: Leonard's mother, Beverly, who is a psychiatrist is having a conversation with Wolowitz about Rajesh.

Beverly: So, Howard, have you and Rajesh finally summoned the courage to express your latent homosexual feelings toward one another?

Howard: What? No.

Beverley: Why not?

Howard: Because we don't have latent homosexual feelings toward one another.

Beverley: I see.

Howard: No, really. I have a girlfriend now.

Beverley: And where is she this evening?

Howard: She had to go out of town. Her grandmother died.

Beverley: I see. Her grandmother died.

Howard: Honest to God. Leonard, tell her I have a girlfriend.

Leonard: I don't know what you're talking about.

Howard: What do you mean you don't know what I'm talking about? Tell her I have a girlfriend!

Leonard: All right. He "has" a "girlfriend."

Howard: Her name is Bernadette, she's working as a waitress, but she's going to school to be a microbiologist.

(S03E11)

34) Scene: Penny quit in the Cheesecake Factory. Technically, she's unemployed now, but she wants to have more time to focus on her acting.

Amy: Penny really quit The Cheesecake Factory?

Leonard: Yeah.

Howard: So, what is she doing today?

Leonard: I don't know. She already thinks I don't support this, so if I call, it might look like I'm checking up on her.

Raj: Well, do you support this?

Leonard: Of course I do. She's a great actress. I'm proud she's taking this risk.

Amy: That's nice.

Leonard: You bought that? Great. I got to call her before I forget how I said it.

(S07E13)

35) Scene: Raj is temporarily living with Penny and Leonard

Raj: I may be moving out soon. I think I found a place to live.

Penny: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Raj: Really? You kept sending me apartment listings.

Penny: Um, well, I, yeah, you got me.

(S10E23)

36) Scene: Penny is cleaning her apartment when she hears Sheldon knocking on the door.

Penny (picking up a top and sniffing it): Ah, it's okay.

Sheldon (voice): (Knock, knock, knock) Penny? (Knock, knock, knock) Penny? (Knock, knock, knock) Penny? (Penny opens door. Howard is stood outside with a hand-held voice recorder.) Penny?

Howard: Would you have opened the door if you knew it was me?

(S04E04)

37) Scene: Guys are about to help Wolowitz move.

Sheldon: Hold on. You honestly expect me to believe that social protocol dictates we break our backs helping Wolowitz move, and then he only need buy us a pizza?

Leonard: I'm sorry, that really is how it works.

Sheldon: You're tricking me. You tell me the truth, what do we get?

Leonard: Raj, help me out here.

Raj: You get to choose between a mountain bike or a PS3.

Sheldon: I knew it! PS3, definitely PS3, who would pick a mountain bike?

(S02E19)

38) Scene: Bernadette is doing taxes.

Howard: How are the taxes going?

Bernadette: Okay. But you got a lot of receipts for the Lego store in here.

Howard: Those are business expenses. You can write those off.

Bernadette: A two hundred dollar R2-D2 is a business expense?

(S08E17)

39) Scene: Sheldon and Leonard have moved new furniture into Penny's apartment.

Penny: Great. Was it hard getting it up the stairs?

Sheldon: (sucks in breath)

Leonard: No.

Sheldon: No?

Leonard: No.

Sheldon: No.

(S01E02)

40) Scene: Raj doesn't know how to break up with his girlfriend Emily.

Raj: Look, I care about you a lot, but we are very different people.

Emily: Are you breaking up with me?

Raj: No, no, I'm just pointing out that you're dark on the inside and I'm dark on the outside.

(S08E24)

41) Scene: Amy broke up with Sheldon, and Penny and Bernadette ask her about her current situation.

Bernadette: Speaking of Sheldon, how's single life treating you?

Amy: Fine, I guess. I've been focusing on me. I was thinking about changing my wardrobe.

Penny: Yes.

Bernadette: Good for you.

Amy: But then I decided I don't want to go changing who I am just because of some man.

Penny: Yes.

Bernadette: Good for you.

(S09E03)

42) Scene: Penny meets Leonard's colleague David, whom she finds attractive, and starts lying.

Penny: So, are you and Leonard working on an experiment together?

David: Yeah, actually we are.

Leonard: Yeah, we're examining the radiation levels of photomultiplier tubes for a new dark matter detector.

Penny: Uh, sweetie, sweetie, Dave was talking. You know, I love science.

Leonard: Since when?

Penny: Since always. Call me a geek, but I am just nuts for the whole subatomic particle thing.

David: The last thing I would ever call you is a geek.

Penny: Ha. Well, that's what I am, queen of the nerds.

(S02E11)

43) Scene: The university forced Sheldon to take a vacation.

Sheldon: Come on, take me to work with you.

Leonard: No. You're on vacation.

Sheldon: Please. What if there's a big breakthrough in science today and I'm not there to see it?

Leonard: Do you really think there's gonna be a breakthrough without you there to do it?

Sheldon: No. I was just tricking you.

(S07E13)

44) Scene: Leonard's girlfriend Stephanie, a doctor, tricks Sheldon.

Steph: Oh, no.

Sheldon: Wha??

Steph: You were right. Your larynx is terribly inflamed. I mean, I've never seen anything like it.

Sheldon: I knew it! What do I do?

Steph: You're going to need to stop talking immediately.

Sheldon: For how...

Steph: Du-du-du-du! Immediately.

(S02E11)

45) *Scene: Bernadette's father was invited to celebrate Thanksgiving at Mrs. Wolowitz's house.*

Bernadette: Hi, Dad.

Mike: Hi, honey.

Bernadette: Oh, you brought beer for everybody.

Mike: Uh, okay, yeah, it's for everybody.

(S07E09)

46) *Scene: Penny and Howard are introducing their deaf friend to Raj. Howard is signing for them.*

Howard (signing): Emily, this is our friend Raj.

Penny: Oh! Look at you guys just hitting it off. I am so good.

Raj: Hi.

Howard: She says it's nice to meet you.

Raj: Does she really mean that or was she signing it sarcastically?

Howard: Raj says it's nice to meet you, too. She says she has to go back to her family, but Penny has her number if you want to text her and get together.

Raj: Okay, I'm going to play it cool. Tell her, maybe. Whatever, babe.

Howard: He'll text you.

(S05E04)

Quality Infringing

47) *Scene: Sheldon and Amy were invited to celebrate Thanksgiving at Mrs. Wolowitz's house.*

Sheldon: Do we really have to go to Mrs. Wolowitz's house?

Amy: We do. And I expect you to be on your best behavior.

Sheldon: Now I know how the African slaves felt. Being dragged from their homes to labor under the yoke of the white man.

Amy: Are you honestly comparing Thanksgiving dinner at Wolowitz's mom's with one of the greatest tragedies in the history of mankind?

Sheldon: Yes.

(S07E09)

48) *Scene: Amy asks Sheldon whether he would be willing to have a couple costume on Halloween with her.*

Amy: So, listen, Sheldon, I was thinking, since this is gonna be our first Halloween party as boyfriend and girlfriend, I thought it might be fun for us to go in a couples costume.

Sheldon: I couldn't agree more.

Amy: Really? I find that inconsistent with everything I know about you.

Sheldon: Oh, oh, on the contrary. Couples costumes are one of the few benefits of being in a relationship. Now imagine this, you and I entering Stuart's party and all eyes turn to see America's most beloved and glamorous couple.

Amy: Yeah?

Sheldon: R2-D2 and C-3PO. Dibs on Threepio.

(S06E05)

Quality Opting out

49) Scene: Penny mentions the name 'Lady Gaga'.

Penny: Do you even know who Lady Gaga is?

Sheldon: Presumably, the wife of Lord Gaga.

(S11E22)

50) Scene: Sheldon has something with his neck.

Amy: Have you considered massage?

Sheldon: I'd like to respond to that sarcastically. Yes, I relish the thought of a stranger covering my body with oil and rubbing it.

(S04E24)

Quality – More Types of Non-observance

51) Scene: Howard is in the space. The other boys are using a web cam to call him.

Raj (voice off): Hey, buddy, how's it going up there?

Howard: You don't have to shout, Raj. It's not like I'm an astronaut floating around in outer space. Oh, wait, I am.

Leonard: So, is it everything you hoped it would be?

Howard: It's better. I wake up every morning and I just can't believe I'm on this incredible adventure.

Dimitri: Hey, Froot Loops, did you clean the space toilet?

Howard: Excuse me. I'm talking to my friends.

Mike: You know the rules, new guy scrubs the toilet.

Dimitri: If you do good job, next time we give you brush.

Howard: Funny. We're always giving each other a hard time up here. It's kind of like being in a frat. You know, joking, kidding around, hurting feelings.

(S06E02)

Flouting

Violation

52) Scene: Amy was pretending that she was sick so that Sheldon would take care of her.

Amy: Oh, Sheldon, am I glad you're back. Taking a turn for the worst. I think I'm going to need another bath.

Sheldon: I'm surprised to hear that. See, the other day, I was concerned that you weren't recovering, so while you were sleeping, I took a cheek swab and had it cultured in the lab.

Amy: Oh?

Sheldon: I got the results back. Have you developed any of the following symptoms? A growing nose, or perhaps a warm sensation in the trouser region? Also known as full-blown liar, liar, pants on fire.

(S06E10)

Violation

Flouting

53) Scene: Sheldon is sad because he gave a lecture at the university and the students didn't like it. The others are now discussing it.

Howard: Sheldon still moping?

Leonard: Yeah, it's weird. Even though he didn't want to give the lecture in the first place, being rejected by those students really hit him hard.

Raj: Mmm, I know the feeling. It's like accidentally walking into a gay bar and then having no one hit on you. It-It happened to a friend of mine.

(S04E14)

Flouting

Violation

54) Scene: Leonard is dating a doctor named Stephanie. She moved in with him, and didn't even ask Leonard, and in addition, she has bought him awful trousers.

Penny: Oh hey.

Leonard: Oh, good. Do you have any fabric softener?

Penny: Yeah, sure. What are you washing? A crocodile?

Leonard: No, the pants that Stephanie got me.

Penny: Oh, sweetie, you can't machine wash these. They'll be ruined.

Leonard: Are you sure?

Penny: Absolutely.

Leonard (throws the trousers into the machine): Oh, no. I wish you'd told me that sooner.

Penny: Are you guys having problems?

Leonard: No, everything's fine.

Penny: Really?

Leonard: Yeah. It's wonderful. Okay, maybe this whole living together happened kind of suddenly, but it's fine, it's great.

(S02E11)

Flouting

Violation

55) Scene: The comic bookstore burned down. Today is the re-opening.

Stuart: Thanks again for your help.

Leonard: No problem.

Raj: Our pleasure.

Leonard: The place really looks great.

Raj: Yeah, you should have burned it down years ago.

Stuart: I keep telling you I didn't burn it down.

Leonard: We know, we know, because burning something down for the insurance money is a crime.

(S08E15)

Infringing

Flouting

56) Scene: The boys are eating the diner. Sheldon promised Penny to stop by for diner but he doesn't want to tell the boys (because Penny broke up with Leonard), so he decided that he would eat the diner with the boys, and then another one with Penny.

Howard: Oh, God, this is good.

Raj: Let me ask you a question. Do you believe you're going to go to hell for eating sweet and sour pork?

Howard: Jews don't have hell. We have acid reflux.

Leonard: Do you want the last dumpling, Sheldon?

Sheldon: Certainly. It's not like I have to moderate my food intake because I'm planning on eating again very shortly. Mm, mm, mm!

(S03E20)

Flouting

Violation

57) Scene: The boys are in a cafeteria, arguing.

Leonard: Your hypothesis is completely disconfirmed by all the data. You're just clinging to it out of intellectual stubbornness.

Raj: No, you're displaying a shocking ignorance of the subject matter. Mummies and zombies are the exact same thing.

Leonard: Oh, yeah? Mummies are wrapped in bandages.

Raj: That's called a fashion choice.

Leonard: All right, you brought this on yourself. Sheldon, get him.

Sheldon: If a zombie bites you, you turn into a zombie. However, if a mummy bites you, all you turn into is some schmo with a mummy bite. So, like a zombie, that's been eaten from the waist down, you, sir, have no leg to stand on.

(S06E09)

Infringing

Flouting

58) *Scene: Howard and Raj are going to a goth nightclub.*

Sheldon: You know, I've always wanted to go to a goth nightclub.

Howard: Really?

Sheldon: Bazinga! None of you ever see my practical jokes coming, do you?

(S03E03)

Flouting

Opting out

59) *Scene: The boys are on the roof of the apartment building, preparing things for the Lunar Rending experiment.*

Leonard: Okay, we've got power to the laser.

Sheldon: I should've brought an umbrella.

Leonard: What for? It's not going to rain.

Sheldon: I know that, but with skin as fair as mine, moon burn is a real possibility.

Howard: That's a bazinga, right?

Sheldon: One of my best, don't you think?

(S03E23)

Flouting

Opting out

Quantity Flouting

60) *Scene: Amy admits that before she does something, she thinks on Sheldon's reaction first.*

Sheldon: I just learned some very distressing news. Sometimes, Amy doesn't do things because she's worried about how I'll react.

Howard: First of all, it's not sometimes. It's always.

Raj: Second, it's not Amy. It's everybody.

Howard: Third, it's not news. It's well-established.

Raj: Yeah, like just now I wanted to get a croissant, but I didn't want to hear you say oo-la-la.

Sheldon: So you're saying everyone walks on eggshells to spare my feelings?

Howard: No, of course not. Because we don't want to hear you complain about how much you hate the sound of crunching eggshells.

Sheldon: Well, I don't want my relationship with Amy to be like that.

Raj: Sheldon, Amy knew what she was getting into.

Sheldon: You think?

Raj: Yes. We warned her.

(S11E15)

Quantity Infringing

61) *Scene: Penny is at Leonard and Sheldon's apartment. She was invited to a diner.*

Penny: Uh, do you guys mind if I start?

Sheldon: Um, Penny, that's where I sit.

Penny: So, sit next to me.

Sheldon: No, I sit there.

Penny: What's the difference?

Sheldon: What's the difference?

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: In the winter that seat is close enough to the radiator to remain warm, and yet not so close as to cause perspiration. In the summer it's directly in the path of a cross breeze created by open windows there, and there. It faces the television at an angle that is neither direct, thus discouraging conversation, nor so far wide to create a parallax distortion, I could go on, but I think I've made my point.

(S01E01)

62) *Scene: Penny is planning a birthday party for Leonard, because he never had one. Sheldon didn't bring any present.*

Penny: Uh, Sheldon, I didn't see your present.

Sheldon: That's because I didn't bring one.

Penny: Well why not?

Howard: Don't ask.

Sheldon: The entire institution of gift giving makes no sense.

Howard: Too late.

Sheldon: Let's say that I go out and I spend fifty dollars on you, it's a laborious activity, because I have to imagine what you need, whereas you know what you need. Now I can simplify things, just give you the fifty dollars directly and, you could give me fifty dollars on my birthday, and so on until one of us dies leaving the other one old and fifty dollars richer. And I ask you, is it worth it?

(S01E16)

63) *Scene: Someone is knocking at Sheldon's door.*

Raj (at door): Can I sleep here tonight?

Sheldon: Why?

Raj: Leonard's having astronomically inaccurate Star Trek sex with my sister.

(S04E24)

64) *Scene: Amy and Sheldon have built a fort in the apartment. Leonard has just come back from work.*

Leonard: Hello? What is this?

Sheldon: We built a fort.

Leonard: Are those my sheets?

Amy: Yes, they are.

(S08E20)

65) Scene: Rajesh has just signed the Temporary Roommate Agreement (he's going to live with Sheldon temporarily)

Sheldon: Congratulations and welcome temporarily aboard. Here's your I.D. Card, your key and your lapel pin. Which Leonard was too cool to wear. FYI, part of your responsibilities as roommate pro tem will be to drive me to and from work, the comic book store, the barbershop and the park for one hour every other Sunday for fresh air. Also, you're tasked with bringing home all takeout dinners. Tonight is Thai food. You'll find the standard order in appendix B or downloadable from my FTP server. If you have any questions, here's the FAQ sheet, or if you prefer the human touch, I do a live web chat called Apartment Talk on Tuesday nights.

(S04E24)

66) Scene: Raj, Howard and Sheldon are eating dinner when they hear a cricket.

Raj: What's that?

Howard: Sounds like a cricket.

Sheldon: Hang on. Based on the number of chirps per minute and the ambient temperature in this room, it is a snowy tree cricket.

Howard: Oh, give me a frickin' break. How could you possibly know that?

Sheldon: In 1890, Emile Dolbear determined that there was a fixed relationship between the number of chirps per minute of the snowy tree cricket and the ambient temperature. A precise relationship that is not present with ordinary field crickets.

Raj: How do you know what the exact temperature of the room is?

Sheldon: Under the terms of my roommate agreement with Leonard, I've had unilateral control of the thermostat ever since the sweaty night of '06.

(S03E02)

67) Scene: Sheldon has brought his new girl-friend, Amy, to the Cheesecake Factory.

Sheldon: Greetings. You all remember Amy Farrah Fowler.

Leonard: Sure.

Howard: Nice to see you.

Amy: Hello.

Sheldon: Sorry we're late.

Amy: I must take responsibility. I had to stop for feminine hygiene supplies.

Howard: Ah, ah.

Leonard: Okay.

Sheldon: I believe she's experiencing her menses.

Amy: Actually, I'm not. In order to avoid surprises, I wear them all the time.

(S04E03)

68) *Scene: Penny has described her favorite scene from the Superman.*

Sheldon: You realize that scene was rife with scientific inaccuracy.

Penny: Yes, I know, men can't fly.

Sheldon: Oh no, let's assume that they can. Lois Lane is falling, accelerating at an initial rate of 32 feet per second per second. Superman swoops down to save her by reaching out two arms of steel. Miss Lane, who is now travelling at approximately 120 miles per hour, hits them, and is immediately sliced into three equal pieces.

(S01E02)

69) *Scene: Leonard has returned to his apartment after Penny told him she didn't want to talk to him.*

Leonard: She doesn't want to talk.

Sheldon: Not surprising. Penny's emotional responses originate from the primitive portion of the brain known as the Amygdala, while speech is centred in the much more recently developed Neocortex. The former can easily overpower the latter giving scientific credence to the notion of being rendered speechless. (Leonard stares at him.) Or maybe she just doesn't want to talk.

(S01E17)

70) *Scene: Leonard is talking with Sheldon about the Harry Potter Books.*

Leonard: I don't know why I avoided the Harry Potter books for so long. These are great. I just started number six.

Sheldon: That's a good one. Dumbledore dies in that one. Yeah, I know, I didn't see it coming, either.

(S06E15)

Quantity – More Types of Non-observance

71) *Scene: Bernadette mentions that she and Penny are having a girl's night.*

Amy: Girls' night? What does that entail?

Bernadette: Oh, you know, girls get together, hang out, share girl talk.

Amy: I'm a girl.

Bernadette: Oh. Well, maybe you can join us. I'll ask Penny.

Amy: No need. Penny and I are very close.

Bernadette: You are?

Amy: Yes. In fact, our menses are synchronized.

(S04E08)

Violation

Flouting

Infringing

72) *Scene: The boys are eating Thai food*

Raj: Are there any chopsticks?

Sheldon: You don't need chopsticks, this is Thai food.

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: Thailand has had the fork since the latter half of the nineteenth century. Interestingly they don't actually put the fork in their mouth, they use it to put the food on a spoon which then goes into their mouth.

(S01E02)

Flouting

Infringing

Relation Flouting

73) Scene: Sheldon can't decide whether he should buy PS4 or Xbox.

Sheldon: On the one hand, the Xbox One has a better camera, but the PS4 has a removable hard drive. Thoughts?

Amy: I can't feel my legs.

(S07E19)

74) Scene: Boys are eating in the cafeteria.

Leonard: No, seriously, I think I've finally figured out my problem with women.

Sheldon: The capybara is the largest member of the rodent family.

Leonard: What does that have to do with me and women?

Sheldon: Nothing. It was a desperate attempt to introduce an alternate topic of conversation.

(S04E07)

Relation Violation

75) Scene: Leonard is teaching Penny how to play chess.

Penny: So, if I move my horse here, isn't that checkmate and I win?

Leonard: Hmm.

Penny: Well, is it or isn't it?

Leonard: You know, I think this is a good stopping point. Uh, it's your first real game. I threw a lot of information at you.

Penny: Well, no, I mean, your king is trapped. He can't go here because of my lighthouse, and he can't go here because of my pointy-head guy.

Leonard: Like I said, complicated game.

Penny: So did I win or not?

Leonard: Did you have fun? Because if you had fun, then you are, you are a winner. Now that's, that-that's what chess is all about.

(S05E18)

Relation Infringing

76) Scene: The boys are discussing the movie Back to the Future II.

Leonard: This is Hot Tub Time Machine all over again. If future Biff goes back to 2015 right after he gives young Biff the almanac, he could get back to the 2015 with Marty and Doc in it. Because it wasn't until his 21st birthday that 1955 Biff placed his first bet.

Sheldon: Wait. Whoa, whoa. Is 'placed' right?

Leonard: What do you mean?

Sheldon: Is 'placed' the right tense for something that would have happened in the future of a past that was affected by something from the future?

Leonard: Had will have placed?

(S08E05)

77) Scene: Leonard explains why he doesn't want to pick up his mother.

Leonard: Well, I can do without the 40-minute car ride where she criticizes every aspect of my life.

Sheldon: She can cover it in a car ride? I could do 40 minutes on your posture alone.

(S09E23)

78) Scene: The guys are sitting in the cafeteria. Howard is talking on the phone to Bernadette.

Howard (on the phone): Yeah, I miss you, too, sweetie. Listen, I got to go, but I'll see you tonight? Okay. Bye-bye. Yeah, bye-bye. No, you hang up first. Hello?

Raj: Dude, I'm glad you finally got a girlfriend, but do you have to do all that lovey-dovey stuff in front of those of us who don't?

Sheldon: Actually, he might have to. There's an economic concept known as a positional good in which an object is only valued by the possessor because it's not possessed by others. The term was coined in 1976 by economist Fred Hirsch to replace the more colloquial, but less precise neener-neener.

(S03E15)

79) Scene: Dinner in the apartment.

Raj: Hey, did you guys know this year's the 40th anniversary of Halloween?

Sheldon: Oh, nonsense. Halloween traditions of date back to the Celtic festival of Samhain. Although our current Halloween customs come from the evening before All Hallows' Day-- All Hallows' Eve-- thus, Halloween.

Raj: I meant the movie Halloween.

(S12E06)

80) Scene: Professor Proton was Sheldon's 'hero' when he was a little kid. Proton is now played by Wil Wheaton, which Sheldon sees as a disaster.

Wil Wheaton: Hello, Sheldon. I suppose you've come here to tell me that you've moved me to your super-secret enemies list.

Sheldon: I don't have a super-secret enemies list. I'm not a Bond villain. I'm just a regular guy, with a regular enemies list.

(S11E15)

81) *Scene: The apartment kitchen. Penny is cooking breakfast while singing and dancing along to “Man I Feel Like A Woman” by Shania Twain. Sheldon enters.*

Penny: Morning, Sheldon. Come dance with me.

Sheldon: No.

Penny: Why not?

Sheldon: Penny, while I subscribe to the many worlds theory which posits the existence of an infinite number of Sheldons in an infinite number of universes, I assure you that in none of them am I dancing.

Penny: Are you fun in any of them?

Sheldon: The math would suggest that in a few I’m a clown made of candy. But I don’t dance.

(S03E03)

Manner Flouting

82) *Scene: Leonard is dating a doctor, Stephanie, who is examining Sheldon.*

Steph: I don’t see anything at all, Sheldon.

Sheldon: Well, you’re the doctor, but I am constantly hearing this annoying sound.

Leonard: Me, too.

Sheldon: Is it a high-frequency whistle?

Leonard: No, it’s more of a relentless, narcissistic drone.

(S02E11)

83) *Scene: Sheldon is at Amy’s place. He was forced by the university to start working with Kripke.*

Amy: Is everything okay?

Sheldon: I’m fine.

Amy: All right, well, how was work today? Did you exchange your research with Kripke?

Sheldon: Yes.

Amy: Sheldon, what’s going on?

Sheldon: I read his research, and, it’s leaps and bounds ahead of mine. Which means the mommy of the smartest physicist at the university is not my mommy as I had thought. It’s his mommy.

84) *Scene: Sheldon and Amy are moving together to the apartment where Penny lived.*

Amy: If we’re going to be staying in this apartment, would you be interested in doing a little redecorating?

Sheldon: Oh, actually, I would.

Amy: Great, what’d you have in mind?

Sheldon: Let’s take every single thing from the other apartment and put it in here.

Amy: Well, how about we start a little smaller? Like moving the furniture around.

Sheldon: You know, I have always thought that this couch would look fantastic on the curb in front of the building.

(S10E10)

85) *Scene: Sheldon and Amy wrote a paper, and before publishing it, they are working on some details.*

Amy: Sheldon, do you want to put the tables after each section or in an appendix at the end?

Sheldon: You know what? We wrote this paper together. I think we should decide together that they go in an appendix at the end.

Amy: How about that? There is an "I" in "team."

(S12E09)

86) *Scene: A conversation about plans for Thanksgiving*

Penny: Oh, you know, that reminds me, I usually go back to Nebraska for thanksgiving, but this year they're calling it off on account of my brother's trial.

Leonard: What's he on trial for?

Penny: Oh, just a big misunderstanding. You know, you'd actually like my brother, he's kind of a chemist.

(S03E04)

87) *Scene: Leonard has some exciting news he wants to tell the other guys.*

Leonard: Guess who the university is sending to Switzerland to attend a conference and see the CERN supercollider on February 14?

Sheldon: Professor Norton, although, God knows why. He hasn't published anything of note since he won that Nobel Prize.

Leonard: Actually, Professor Norton can't make it. He threw his back out rock climbing.

Howard: I heard he threw his back out climbing on his new girlfriend.

Raj: The big-boobed weather girl on Channel 2?

Howard: That's the one.

Leonard: In any case, they're asking me to fill in for him.

Sheldon: In Switzerland or with the big-boobed weather girl?

(S03E15)

88) *Scene: Bernadette is in a quarantine and the others visit her*

Howard: Oh, my God, Bernie, what happened?

Bernadette: Well, let's just say the next time you move a dozen vials of raccoon virus to the fridge, make two trips.

(S07E06)

89) *Scene: Penny enters Sheldon's apartment and wants to know his Wi-Fi password.*

Penny (at door): Hey, Sheldon, did you change your Wi-Fi password again?

Sheldon: Yes, it's "Penny, get your own Wi-Fi." No spaces.

(S04E24)

90) *Scene: Howard and Raj are in the cafeteria, talking about the correct pronunciation of one word.*

Raj: You're wrong.

Howard: No, I'm not.

Raj: Yes, you are.

Howard: No, I'm not. (To Leonard:) Settle this. Those little animated pictures on the Internet, are they called gifs or jifs?

Leonard: Well, the G stands for graphics. That's a hard G, so I'd say gif.

Raj: The guy who invented it says it's jif.

Howard: I'm sorry, do you mean the guy or the juy?

(S08E20)

91) *Scene: Howard and Raj are supposed to find Sheldon a girlfriend.*

Howard: I have an idea. What if we put a post on Craigslist that says world-class Caltech physicist seeking girlfriend. If interested, solve the following puzzles for a chance to meet him.

Sheldon: Oh, we'll make the puzzles extremely challenging to eliminate unworthy candidates.

Raj: Oh, we could set it up like a scavenger hunt where the last puzzle gives the winner Sheldon's contact information.

Howard: Well, this is actually an interesting social experiment.

Raj: I'm a little jealous of the people who get to do it.

Howard: Me, too. And we've seen the prize.

(S09E08)

92) *Scene: Howard, Leonard, and Sheldon are supposed to persuade young girls to start a scientific career. They have to come up with a plan how to do that.*

Leonard: Look, I know you guys don't want to do this, but we have no choice. So, you can either bitch and whine or we can just get it over with.

Howard: I got whine.

Sheldon: I got the B word.

Leonard: Yeah, well, it's in our contract to serve on a university committee. And frankly, this is one I believe in. Okay, here we go. Encouraging more women to pursue a career in the sciences.

Howard: Come on, if I was any good at convincing women to do stuff, I wouldn't have spent so much of my twenties in the shower.

(S06E18)

93) *Scene: The boys were invited to the Halloween at Penny's. Nobody understands their costumes.*

Sheldon: Neeeeeeooooowwwwww!

Girl: I still don't get it.

Sheldon: I'm the Doppler Effect.

Girl: Okay, if that is some sort of learning disability, I think it's very insensitive.

Leonard: Why don't you just tell people you're a zebra?

Sheldon: Well, why don't you just tell people you're one of the seven dwarves.

Leonard: Because I'm Frodo.

Sheldon: Yes, well, I'm the Doppler Effect.

(S01E06)

94) Scene: Leonard had a fight with Sheldon and now he wants to sleep at Penny's apartment.

Leonard: Can I sleep on your couch tonight?

Penny: Uh, well, you can try, but the people across the hall are being very noisy.

Leonard: You heard that, huh?

Penny: Apparently, the one fella tried to adjust the thermostat, then the other fella went bat-crap crazy.

Leonard: So you agree, he's nuts.

Penny: Well, not as nuts as the guy who chooses to live with him.

(S03E22)

Manner Violation

95) Scene: Sheldon is bored so he goes to visit Howard's in his lab.

Sheldon: I just came by to say hello.

Howard: I've been at this lab for three years, you've never came by to say hello.

Sheldon: Well, up until now I've had better things to do. So, what are we making today?

Howard: A small payload support structure for a European science experimental package that's going up on the next space shuttle.

Sheldon: Really, how does it work?

Howard: When this is done, it will be attached to the payload bay, and the sensor apparatus will rest on it.

Sheldon: Uh, huh. So, it's a shelf?

Howard: No, you don't understand, during acceleration it needs to stay perfectly level and provide... yeah, okay, it's a shelf.

(S01E12)

Manner Infringing

96) Scene: Leonard finds out that Raj's sister Priya, whom he dated, is staying with Raj for couple of days.

Raj (inside): Who is it?

Leonard: It's Leonard.

Raj: You can't come in.

Leonard: I just want to talk to her.

Raj: I forbid it.

Priya: Open the door, Rajesh.

Raj: You heard me. I forbided it.

Priya: Forbided it?

Raj: Forbaded it?

(S04E16)

97) *Scene: Sheldon comes to the living room and sees that Penny is sitting in his spot.*

Sheldon: Hello, Penny.

Penny: Hello, Sheldon.

Sheldon: You're in my spot.

Penny: Are you planning on sitting here?

Sheldon: No, I'm going to the comic book store.

Penny: Then what difference does it make?

Sheldon: What difference does it make?

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: That is my spot. In an ever-changing world, it is a single point of consistency. If my life were expressed as a function on a four-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system, that spot at the moment I first sat on it would be zero-zero-zero-zero.

Penny: What?

Leonard: Don't sit in his spot.

(S02E16)

98) *Scene: The hallway. Leonard's mother is leaving.*

Leonard: All right, Mother. Um, have a nice flight.

Beverley: That's not really in my control, is it?

(S02E15)

99) *Scene: Barry is to his phone (Siri):*

Barry: You got Siwi, huh? Voice wecognition on that thing is tewible. Wook. Siwi, can you wecommend a westauwant?

Barry's Siri: I'm sorry, Bawwy. I don't understand wecommend a westauwant.

Barry: Wisten to me. Not westauwant, westauwant.

Barry's Siri: I don't know what you mean by not westauwant, westauwant.

Barry: See? Total cwap. You suck, Siwi.

(S05E14)

100) *Scene: Leonard enters the apartment while Howard is teaching Sheldon Mandrine.*

Sheldon: Mai du lui tsa.

Howard: You just called Leonard a syphilitic donkey.

(S01E17)

101) Scene: The Szechuan Palace, Sheldon wants to make sure that they serve chicken with tangerines (not oranges) there.

Sheldon (in Mandarin): Show me your mucus! Your mucus!

Owner (in Mandarin): Blow your own nose and go away.

Sheldon (in Mandarin): This is not a tangerine bicycle.

Owner (in English): Crazy man. Call the police.

Sheldon (in Mandarin): No. Don't call the library. Show me your mucus. (Leonard and Penny are seen entering, and then leaving again quickly.) Oxen are in my bed! Many, many oxen! Oy Vey!

(S01E17)

102) Scene: The three characters meet for the second time, Penny is Sheldon's and Leonard's new neighbor.

Leonard: Hi. Again.

Penny: Hi.

Sheldon: Hi.

Leonard: Hi.

Penny: Hi.

Leonard: Anyway, um. We brought home Indian food. And, um. I know that moving can be stressful, and I find that when I'm undergoing stress, that good food and company can have a comforting effect. Also, curry is a natural laxative, and I don't have to tell you that, uh, a clean colon is just one less thing to worry about.

Sheldon: Leonard, I'm not expert here but I believe in the context of a luncheon invitation, you might want to skip the reference to bowel movements.

(S01E01)

103) Scene: Leonard tries to impress Penny in a restaurant, so he places a glass over an olive and spins it until the olive gets caught up on the side.

Penny: Wow, centrifugal force!

Leonard: Actually, it's centripetal force, which is an inward force generated by the glass acting on the olive. ... Now, if you were riding on the olive, you'd be in a non-inertial reference frame, and would ... (he bangs his head on the underside of the table because the olive fell under it and he wanted to pick it up)

(01E03)

104) Scene: The boys came back from the North Pole, and Leonard brought a present for Penny.

Penny: Hi.

Leonard: Hey. Listen, since we got, you know, interrupted last night, I didn't have a chance to give you this.

Penny: Oh, Leonard, you shouldn't have. Oh, boy! What is it?

Leonard: It's a snowflake. From the North Pole.

Penny: Are you serious?

Leonard: Uh-huh. It'll last forever. I preserved it in a one percent solution of polyvinyl acetal resin.

Penny: Oh, my God. That's the most romantic thing anyone's ever said to me that I didn't understand.

Leonard: It's actually a pretty simple process. You see, cyanoacrylate are monomers which polymerize on... (she kisses him)

(S03E01)

105) Scene: Penny is getting drunk with Beverly in a bar.

Penny: Another round for me and my homegirl.

Beverley: I feel a spreading warmth through my extremities.

(S03E11)

106) Scene: Penny suggests that Leonard and Sheldon should buy a dining table. Sheldon protests.

Sheldon: We're not getting a dining room table.

Leonard: I know you don't like change, but it's not a terrible idea.

Penny: Yeah, you guys never use that space up there. Why not get a table?

Sheldon: Do you want the long answer or the short answer?

Howard: Hey, how come we never get that option?

Sheldon: Chaos theory suggests that even in a deterministic system, if the equations describing its behavior are non-linear, a tiny change in the initial conditions can lead to a cataclysmic and unpredictable result.

Penny: Translation?

Leonard: Waah. I don't want a table.

(S07E16)

Manner – More Types of Non-observance

107) Scene: Amy has just arrived to her and Sheldon's apartment. Sheldon has his things all over the place.

Sheldon: Don't sit there!

Amy: What, what? I..sorry.

Sheldon: It's part of my organization system. That's-that's where those papers go.

Amy: Okay. Um, how about if I just... slide this notebook...

Sheldon: Eh...

Amy: You know what, it's fine. I'll just be in the bedroom.

Sheldon: No, no. This is your apartment, too. Look, I'll stop for the night and clean this up.

Amy: Well, that's very considerate, Sheldon.

Sheldon: I know. See, I'm trying this new technique where I imagine how I would feel in someone else's position.

Amy: You mean empathy?

Sheldon: Oh, I thought I came up with it.

(S11E14)

Manner Flouting
Manner Infringing

Combination – Two Maxims

108) Scene: During the diner at the apartment Penny hears about a game the boys play every Tuesday night.

Penny: So, Klingon boggle?

Leonard: Yeah, it's like regular boggle but, in Klingon. That's probably enough about us, tell us about you.

Penny: Um, me, okay, I'm Sagittarius, which probably tells you way more than you need to know.

Sheldon: Yes, it tells us that you participate in the mass cultural delusion that the Sun's apparent position relative to arbitrarily defined constellations and the time of your birth somehow effects your personality.

(S01E01)

Manner + Relation Infringing

109) Scene: the boys are playing a game in the Cheescake Factory and don't want to order food.

Penny: Alright, my boss says you either have to order, or leave and never come back.

Howard: What do you recommend for someone who worked up a man-sized appetite from a morning of weight training and cardio-funk?

Penny: A shower.

Howard: I'll take the heart smart platter.

Penny: Alright, thank you, and Sheldon.

Sheldon: We don't eat here, I don't know what's good.

Penny: Well, it's all good.

Sheldon: Statistically unlikely.

(S01E05)

Quality Flouting
Quality Violation

110) Scene: Denis, a very young scientist smarter than Sheldon, comments on Sheldon's work.

Dennis: It's startling to me you haven't considered a Lorentz invariant field theory approach.

Sheldon: You think I haven't considered it? You really think I haven't considered it?

Dennis: Have you considered it?

Sheldon: Get him out Leonard.

(S01E12)

Quality Violation

Relation Flouting

111) Scene: The boys are going to make an experiment and Leonard mentions that Penny might like watching it.

Raj: Why don't you ask her to come up?

Leonard: I don't know, it's still a little weird since, you know...

Howard: She dumped you?

Leonard: She didn't dump me. We were just in different places in the relationship.

Sheldon: I fail to see how a relationship can have the qualities of a geographic location.

Howard: Oh, it's very simple. Leonard was living in a little town called please don't leave me, while Penny had just moved to the island of bye-bye.

(S03E23)

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

112) Scene: The hallway, Sheldon scuttles out of apartment door and crosses to Penny's. Knocks on it urgently.

Penny (opening door): Oh, hey Sheldon, what's going on?

Sheldon: I need your opinion on a matter of semiotics.

Penny: I'm sorry?

Sheldon: Semiotics. The study of signs and symbols, it's a branch of philosophy related to linguistics.

Penny: Okay, sweetie, I know you think you're explaining yourself, but you're really not.

Sheldon: Just come with me.

(S01E05)

Manner Infringing

Relation Infringing

113) Scene: The boys are in the Cheesecake Factory. Sheldon has taken a sip from a glass which is Leonard's.

Leonard: Uh, that's my water.

Sheldon: What?

Leonard: My water. You're drinking it.

Sheldon: Dear Lord! Have you been drinking it?

Leonard: Yes. It's my water.

Sheldon: Well, that's it then. I'm dead.

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: I'm sorry, do I really need to connect the dots for you? The backwash into this glass is every pathogen that calls your mouth home, sweet home. Not to mention the visitors who arrive on the dancing tongue of your subtropical girlfriend.

(S04E23)

Quality Flouting

Manner Infringing

114) Scene: Amy and Sheldon had an argument. Amy said that she needed time to decide whether she wants to stay with him or not.

Sheldon: Hello.

Amy: Oh. What are you doing here?

Sheldon: When last we spoke, you said you needed time.

Amy: Well, it's only been 11 hours.

Sheldon: The Lord of the Rings trilogy was nearly 11 hours. I made you watch that, you said it was an eternity.

(S09E01)

Quantity Flouting

Manner Infringing

115) Scene: Stuart had no place to live so he started living with Mrs. Wolowitz

Amy: So, Howard, is Stuart still living with your mom?

Howard: I don't want to talk about it.

Bernadette: But he's going to.

Howard: My mom got him cable. In my whole life, growing up in that house, no cable. Do you know how many HBOs that leech had my mother get him? Seven. Seven HBOs. Seven.

Bernadette: Long story short, they have seven HBOs.

(S08E04)

Quality Violation

Quantity Flouting

116) Scene: The apartment.

Raj: So, couldn't help but notice none of you RSVP'd to my murder mystery dinner party.

Leonard: Oh, yeah. We were meaning to do that.

Raj: No, you weren't because it was a week ago and nobody came. So, if you want to solve the mystery of who stabbed Koothrappali in the back with the weapon of indifference, it was all of you.

Sheldon: I don't think that qualifies as a mystery, we all knew what we were doing.

Amy: We're sorry, Rajesh.

Bernadette: Maybe we can do it next week.

Howard: Whoa, whoa, we're not that sorry.

(S07E03)

Quality Violation

Quality Flouting

117) Scene: The boys have just had lunch with Amy for the first time. Leonard, Howard, and Raj do not like her.

Leonard: Listen, can I talk to you about your girlfriend?

Sheldon: She's not my girlfriend. She's a girl and she's my friend, but there's no touching or unsanitary exchange of saliva.

Leonard: Got it.

Sheldon: Although, for the record, on one occasion, she licked her thumb to remove raspberry jelly from the corner of my mouth. It's an action we both regret to this day.

Leonard: Uh-huh. Anyway, I'm not sure she's the best fit for our little, how should we call it, rebel alliance.

Sheldon: Oh, I never identified with the rebel alliance. Despite their tendency to build Death Stars, I've always been more of an empire man.

Leonard: Yeah, not my point.

Sheldon: I know what your point is. You're intimidated by Amy's intellect. To that I say, buck up.

Leonard: Okay, let me just get right to it. Amy is judgmental, sanctimonious and frankly just obnoxious.

(S04E03)

Relation Infringing

Manner Flouting

118) Scene: Sheldon is explaining to Penny why he was so long in the bathroom.

Sheldon: I had to sanitize my hands because the university replaced the paper towels in the rest rooms with hot air blowers.

Penny: I thought the blowers were more sanitary?

Leonard and Howard: Why? Don't!

Sheldon: Hot air blowers are incubators and spewers of bacteria and pestilence. Frankly, it would be more hygienic if they just had a plague infested gibbon sneeze my hands dry.

(S02E04)

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

119) Scene: Raj, Howard, Leonard and Penny were drinking last night. Raj drank too much.

Raj: Oh, God, never again.

Leonard: I assume by never again, you mean never again will you drink all of Penny's beer, then run down to the gas station for a couple of 40s, a box of Slim Jims and the latest issue of Bombay Badonkadonks.

Raj: I was homesick.

Howard: The highlight of the evening was when you showed us your Bollywood break dancing skills. (Does a stereotyped impersonation of Bollywood dancing.)

Raj: That's very offensive.

Howard: Yeah, we all thought so.

(S04E03)

Quantity Flouting

Quality Flouting

120) Scene: Sheldon is visited by a female colleague.

Elizabeth: Can I ask a question about your roommate?

Sheldon: He's an odd duck, isn't he?

Elizabeth: What's his relationship status?

Sheldon: Well, there was a misbegotten adventure with a waitress who lives across the hall. It ended as inexplicably as it began. They had very little in common, except for carnal activity. That's why I acquired these noise-cancelling headphones. If you decide to use them, please clean the ear pieces afterwards with the Wet Wipes you'll find in the bathroom. They're in the drawer labelled Wet Wipes.

(S03E21)

Quantity Infringing

Relation Infringing

121) Scene: Bernadette wants to know how Howard sees their relationship.

Bernadette: Where do you think this is going?

Howard: To be honest, I was hoping at least second base.

Bernadette: You're so funny. You're like a stand-up comedian.

Howard: A Jewish stand-up comedian, that'd be new.

Bernadette: Actually, I think a lot of them are Jewish.

Howard: No, I was just... never mind.

(S03E09)

Relation Flouting

Quality Flouting

122) Scene: Amy forced Penny to call her dad and tell him that she and Leonard are married and that she didn't invite him. Penny now wants Amy to call her mom and tell her all the news she has.

Penny: Phone, now.

Amy: Okay. Okay. Fine. Hi, Mom.

Penny: Try dialing.

Amy: You saw that, huh? Hi, Mom. How are you doing? Oh, good. How's work? That's nice. I'm fine. Hey, listen, I've been meaning to ask, how come Aunt Doe and Aunt Florence never got along?

Penny: Okay, just give me that. Amy broke up with Sheldon, she got her ears pierced and she made us eat penis cookies. Hang on. She wants to talk to you.

(S09E03)

Quality Violation
Relation Violation

123) Scene: Leonard's mom is coming for a visit.

Penny: Leonard, what time does your mom's plane get in?

Leonard: I don't know, some time tomorrow morning.

Penny: Don't you want to know for sure?

Leonard: No need to. As soon as she flies into California airspace, I'll feel a disturbance in the Force.

(S08E23)

Quantity Flouting
Quality Flouting

124) Scene: Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Hofstadter are visiting Leonard and Sheldon because they were awarded and there is going to be a ceremony.

Mrs. Cooper: Shelly, I'm so proud of you and Leonard for getting this award.

Sheldon: Oh, thank you, Mother.

Mrs. Cooper: I tried to read your paper, but it was very hard for me to understand.

Sheldon: Oh, it's quite straightforward, actually. It describes a new model of the universe that conceptualizes it as the surface of an n-dimensional superfluid.

Mrs. Cooper: Interesting. You can believe that, but God filling an ark with animals two-by-two is nonsense.

Sheldon: What did they feed the lions, Mother?

Mrs. Cooper: The floating bodies of drowned sinners, of course.

Sheldon: Listen, Leonard's mom is a renowned psychiatrist and woman of science. Can you please keep the Bible babble to yourself while she's here?

Mrs. Cooper: Are you ashamed of me?

Sheldon: Of course not. I love you. I'm just embarrassed by the things you believe, do and say.

Mrs. Cooper: Well, I love you, too. My little bowl of lion chow.

(S08E23)

Manner Infringing

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

125) Scene: Leonard's mom and Sheldon's mom came to visit. Leonard and his mother have just arrived to the apartment.

Sheldon: Oh, Doctor Hofstadter, it's so good to see you again.

Beverly: Likewise. I read your paper, it was very impressive.

Sheldon: Oh, thank you.

Leonard: We just spent two hours in traffic. Did you think to mention to me that you liked our paper?

Beverly: Of course, I did, but it's a mother's job to make sure her child's self-esteem is not dependent on anyone's approval.

Leonard: That's so sweet, you think I have self-esteem.

(S08E23)

Relation Infringing

Quality Flouting

126) Scene: Sheldon is working on a physics problem that he cannot solve. So he decided to find a manual job so that his brain could work subconsciously, and solve the problem.

Penny: Sheldon, what the hell are you doing?

Sheldon: I'm trying to get these tables cleared. We're slammed.

Penny: No, wait, wait, no, wait. Wh.. what are you doing here?

Sheldon: A reasonable question. I asked myself, what is the most mind-numbing, pedestrian job conceivable, and three answers came to mind, uh, toll booth attendant, an Apple Store genius, and what Penny does. Now, since I don't like touching other people's coins, and I refuse to contribute to the devaluation of the word genius, here I am.

Penny: You just, you just walked in and they hired you, just like that?

Sheldon: Oh, heavens, no. Since I don't need to be paid, I didn't need to be hired. I simply came in, picked up a tray, and started working for the man.

(S03E14)

Relation Infringing

Manner Infringing

127) Scene: Leonard's mother and Sheldon's mother are talking about their sons.

Mrs. Cooper: You must be very proud of your son.

Dr. Hofstadter: Oh, yes. He recently argued a case before the Supreme Court.

Mrs. Cooper: He did?

Dr. Hofstadter: Oh, you mean this son. Uh, sure, he's terrific.

(S08E23)

Relation Infringing

Quality Violation

128) Scene: Howard is about to become a father of a boy, which makes him uneasy. He drives, and Sheldon is his only passenger in the car.

Sheldon Cooper: You know, studies have shown that people distracted by emotional issues are poor drivers.

Howard Wolowitz: What about people distracted by irritating passengers?

Sheldon Cooper: That would be hard to test, because "irritating" is a subjective quality.

Howard Wolowitz: Strongly disagree.

(S11E04)

Manner flouting

Relation infringing

129) Scene: Leonard and Sheldon are working.

Leonard: So anyway, Howard asked Penny to talk to Bernadette, and she did, and Bernadette agreed to meet him for a cup of coffee.

Sheldon: One question.

Leonard: Yeah?

Sheldon: Why on earth are you telling me all this?

Leonard: I don't know. Sometimes your movements are so lifelike, I forget you're not a real boy.

(S04E04)

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

130) Scene: The boys just met Penny with her new boyfriend. She and Leonard broke up few months ago.

Leonard: You know what, I'm happy that Penny's moving on. It gives me the freedom to move on myself.

Howard: Are you saying that you've been holding back?

Leonard: Of course. Out of respect.

Howard: So, how do you explain the ten years before Penny?

Raj: Who were you respecting then?

Leonard: What? I've dated plenty of women. There was Joyce Kim, Leslie Winkle.

Sheldon: Notify the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary. The word plenty has been redefined to mean two.

(S02E02)

Quality Violation

Quality Flouting

131) Scene: The guys have discovered that a celebrity is going to be in the comic bookstore. Leonard wants to tell Penny.

Penny: Hi!

Leonard: Hey. Guess who's going to be at the comic bookstore on Thursday?

Penny: Um, can you give me a hint?

Leonard: Stan Lee.

Penny: Um, Stanley, Stanley, Stanley Tucci?

Leonard: No, no, Stan Lee.

Penny: Oh, oh, Stan Lee! Cool!

Leonard: You have no idea who he is, do you?

Penny: Of course, I do. You're an important part of my life and I pay attention to the things you are interested in.

Leonard: Good, good, so, who's Stan Lee?

Penny: Um, he was on Star Trek.

Leonard: Nope.

Penny: Star Wars?

Leonard: No.

Penny: Um, uh, Stan Lee, oh, he was in those goofy kung fu movies you love so much?

Leonard: That's Bruce Lee.

Penny: Oh. So, is this Bruce Lee's nerdy brother, Stan?

(S03E16)

Infringing Manner

Quality Violation

132) Scene: Howard is in the space, and the guys are discussing it in the comic bookstore.

Stuart: So, Howard's really in space, huh?

Leonard: Mm-hmm, International Space Station. 250 miles that way.

Raj: Right now, Howard's staring down at our planet like a tiny Jewish Greek god. Zeusowitz.

Sheldon: I must admit, I can't help but feel a twinge of envy. He can look out the window and see the majesty of the universe unfolding before his eyes. His dim, uncomprehending eyes. It's like a cat in an airport carrying case.

Leonard: You know, it's not exactly glamorous up there. The water that the astronauts drink is made from each other's recycled urine.

Stuart: Must be nice. Nobody wants anything that comes out of me.

(S06E01)

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

133) Scene: Penny broke up with Leonard, and now she started dating Stuart.

Penny: Fine. Oh, hey, can I ask you something?

Leonard: Sure.

Penny: You know your friend Stuart?

Leonard: Yes.

Penny: Well, he asked me out again and I said yes, and then I started thinking maybe I should talk to you first.

Leonard: About what?

Penny: Well, does it bother you, me going out with one of your friends? 'Cause you know, you and me...

Leonard: No, no that's the past. I'm really more of a right now kind of guy. You know, living in the moment. Although I do have to live a little in the future, 'cause, well, that's my job. Of course, my fondness for classic science fiction does draw my attention backwards, but those stories often take place in the future. In conclusion, no, it doesn't bother me.

(S02E22)

Quality Violation

Quantity Infringing

134) Scene: Howard is in the space, so Raj has invited Stuart to the cinema, so that he would not feel so lonely, as Sheldon is going with Amy, and Leonard with Penny. Sheldon doesn't know about this, so he is surprised when Stuart enters the apartment.

Stuart (knocking and entering): Hello.

Raj: Hey, Stuart, come on in.

Sheldon: What are you doing here?

Stuart: Um, Raj invited me to go to the movies with you guys.

Sheldon: Excuse me. I didn't authorize this.

Leonard: Sheldon, you are not in charge.

Sheldon: That's mighty sassy for a man with a roommate performance review around the corner.

Raj: What's the big deal? You guys are bringing your girlfriends. I didn't want to sit by myself.

Sheldon: The big deal is I was expecting us to be an intimate group of five. Now, we're going to be a faceless mass of six.

Leonard: It'll be fine. Just, uh, pretend he's Wolowitz.

Sheldon: Hmm. Do you like Raisinets?

Stuart: I can take them or leave them.

Sheldon: At the movies, Wolowitz always eats Raisinets.

Stuart: Would you feel more comfortable if I ate Raisinets?

Sheldon: Well, it's hardly my business what you eat, as long as it doesn't crunch during the film and it's Raisinets.

Stuart: Okay.

(S06E02)

Manner Flouting

Relation Infringing

135) Scene: Leonard wants to avoid sick Sheldon, because Shelly tends to be annoying when he's sick, so he runs from their apartment when Sheldon calls him.

Leonard (voice on phone): Hey.

Sheldon: Leonard, where are you?

Leonard (running down stairs): I'm at work.

Sheldon: At six-thirty in the morning?

Leonard: Yes.

Sheldon: On Sunday?

Leonard: Yes.

Sheldon: Why?

Leonard: They asked me to come in.

Sheldon: Well, I didn't hear the phone ring.

Leonard: They texted me.

Sheldon: Well, as I predicted, I am sick. My fever has been tracking up exponentially since 2am, and I am producing sputum at an alarming rate.

Leonard: No kidding?

Sheldon: No. Not only that, it has shifted from clear to milky green.

Leonard: Alright, well, get some rest and drink plenty of fluids.

Sheldon: What else would I drink? Gasses? Solids? Ionised plasma?

Leonard: Drink whatever you want.

Sheldon: I want soup.

Leonard: Then make soup.

Sheldon: We don't have soup.

Leonard: I'm at work, Sheldon. (A woman enters the apartment building with a barking dog.)

Sheldon: Is that a dog?

Leonard: Yes,

Sheldon: In the lab?

Leonard: Yes, they're training dogs to operate the centrifuge for when they need dogs to operate the centrifuge for blind scientists, I have to go.

(S01E11)

Quality Violation

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

136) Scene: Penny stayed in Nebraska for a few days and now she went to the boy's apartment.

Leonard: How was your family?

Penny: Ugh, it was the worst trip, everyone got sick over the weekend.

Sheldon: Sick?

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon (running to opposite side of the room): What kind of sick?

Penny: Oh, the flu I guess.

Sheldon: I don't need you to guess. I need you to know. now when did the symptoms first appear?

Penny: Maybe Friday.

Sheldon: Friday. was that morning or afternoon?

Penny: I... I don't...

Sheldon: Think woman. who blew their nose and when?

Leonard: Sheldon, relax, she doesn't have any symptoms, I'm sure she's not contagious.

Sheldon: Oh please, if influenza was only contagious after symptoms appear it would have died out thousands of years ago. Somewhere between tool using and cave painting, homo habilis would have figured out to kill the guy with the runny nose.

(S01E11)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Flouting

Quantity Infringing

137) Scene: The guys are having lunch in the cafeteria and Rajesh sneezes.

Sheldon: Hold.

Raj: What?

Sheldon: Explain your sneeze.

Raj: I'm sorry?

Sheldon: Do you have allergies?

Raj: No.

Sheldon: Is there too much pepper on your salad?

Raj: I don't put pepper on salads.

Sheldon: I've heard enough. Sit over there.

Raj: Oh, come on. I don't want to sit by myself.

Sheldon: That's what Typhoid Mary said, and clearly, her friends buckled.

(S03E21)

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

138) Scene: Penny wanted to break up with Leonard. Instead of it, she slept with him.

Amy: You slept with him?

Penny: I didn't know what else to do. He had those big, sad eyes.

Bernadette: Oh, sure, you had no choice.

Penny: He looked at me like this.

Amy: Well, if that's all it takes, it's a good thing you don't have a dog.

Bernadette: Don't worry. You'll have plenty of chances to break up with him. Your wedding day, your honeymoon, your 50th anniversary.

Penny: Look, it's fine. We're not getting married, okay? We're keeping things, you know, homeostasis.

Amy: It's so cute when she tries.

(S06E02)

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

139) Scene: The boys are in the cafeteria.

Raj: Did you guys see the new budget memo that went out this morning?

Leonard: Yeah, more cutbacks.

Sheldon: Unacceptable. It baffles me why they don't simply let some of you go so that there's money available for my research.

Leonard: You know what baffles me, Sheldon?

Sheldon: Based on your academic record, any number of things, I would imagine.

(S02E16)

Manner Flouting

Relation Infringing

140) Scene: Penny and Sheldon are doing yoga.

Penny: And hold three, two, one. Very good. Now let's try Warrior 2. And hold.

Sheldon: I've read that there are great yogis who have such mastery over their bodies they can draw water in through their genitals.

Penny: Yeah, well, I don't think we're gonna get to do that today.

Sheldon: Too bad. It seems like a good way to drink a milk shake without getting brain freeze.

Leonard: Oh, hey.

Penny: And now we go to Reverse Warrior.

Leonard: How did she get you to do yoga?

Sheldon: Well, to be honest, I thought she said Yoda.

(S07E13)

Relation Infringing

Manner Flouting

141) Scene: Raj prepared a scavenger hunt for the others. Penny and Sheldon were teamed up, and Sheldon solved the second mystery. Penny has no idea how he did it.

Penny: Oh. Okay. Sheldon, I, I've got to ask, how did you figure out that it was the geology lab?

Sheldon: Oh, simple, the 'arrah, 'arrah in the riddle mean Jan Arrah, a member of the Legion of Superheroes, known as Element Lad. And then the word He, it wasn't the masculine pronoun, but rather H e, the abbreviation for helium. See where I'm going with this?

Penny: Yes.

Sheldon: Nice try. Now, Element Lad's ability is the power to transmute chemical elements. Helium has an atomic number of two. If you multiply that by the atomic number of N, nitrogen, you get 14, which is the atomic number of? I'm just funnin' you, silicon. And that is the most common element in the Earth's surface. So that narrowed it down to the geology lab or the chemistry lab.

Penny: Wow. I can drink a beer underwater.

Sheldon: And I'm sure your parents are proud.

(S07E13)

Manner Infringing

Quality Violation

Quality Flouting

142) Scene: Sheldon's World of Warcraft account was hacked and he was robbed. Howard tracked the man who did it, but the boys were not able to get the things back. Penny is now helping them, she is standing in front of the robber's door.

Todd: Now what?

Penny: Give my friend his stuff back.

Todd: I don't know what you're talking about.

Penny: Well, then, good news. Today's the day a girl's finally going to touch you in your little special place. (Kicks him in the groin) Now give him his stuff back.

Todd: Okay.

(S03E11)

Quality Violation

Manner + Quality Flouting

143) Scene: Wolowitz, Rajesh and Sheldon are playing Wii bowling when suddenly Leonard enters the apartment.

Leonard (entering): Hey, guys!

Howard: That doesn't count. Do over! Do over!

Sheldon: There are no do-overs in Wii bowling.

Howard: There are always do-overs when my people play sports.

Sheldon: Where were you that's more important than Wii bowling night?

Leonard: Actually, I was...

Sheldon: It's a rhetorical question. There is nothing more important than Wii bowling night.

Leonard: Come on, it's just a video game. And we suck at it.

Sheldon: Nice motivational speech from the team captain.

(S02E11)

Quality Flouting

Relation Opting out

144) Scene: Alex, Sheldon's assistant, flirts with Leonard. Sheldon finds this situation very unpleasant, because it seems that Alex cannot focus on work.

Sheldon: Alex, check my schedule. What does my afternoon look like?

Alex: I think it's pretty wide open. Oh, wait. Here's something at four o'clock. Give Alex a talking to?

Sheldon: Well, that snuck up on us, didn't it?

Alex: Is there a problem?

Sheldon: Let's not call it a problem. Let's call it an opportunity. To solve a serious problem.

Alex: What did I do?

Sheldon: You don't know? Oh, you poor dear. Your ovaries are squirting so much goofy juice into your brains you don't even know which way is up. You made an inappropriate sexual advance towards Dr. Hofstadter.

Alex: What? I didn't make a sexual advance on anybody.

Sheldon: Now, there's no need to get defensive. I'm not unsympathetic to your plight. My father used to say that a woman is like an egg salad sandwich on a warm Texas day.

Alex: What?

Sheldon: Full of eggs and only appealing for a short time.

(S06E12)

Manner Flouting

Quality + Manner Infringing

Quality Flouting

145) Scene: The girls are in Penny's apartment. Amy is about to work on an experiment at Caltech, the university where the boys work.

Bernadette: So, Amy, what are you gonna be working on at Caltech?

Amy: I'm leading a study to see if deficiency of the monoamine oxidase enzyme leads to paralyzing fear in monkeys.

Bernadette: If they're anything like humans, the answer's yes.

Amy: Wait, you've, you've done this experiment on humans?

Bernadette: You mean like death row inmates with nothing to lose? No, that would be unethical.

Penny: You know, not a lot of people know this, but the monoamine oxidase enzyme was discovered by a woman, Mary Bernheim. That's right, my phone is just as smart as you guys.

(S07E05)

Quality Violation

Quality + Manner Flouting

146) Scene: Amy is about to work at Caltech, and Sheldon has expressed that he does not like it.

Penny: Yeah, and you can't tell her what she can and cannot do.

Sheldon: Last week, you told Leonard he couldn't wear his Wookie jacket out in public.

Penny: That's different. I'm not going to the mall with someone dressed like a dumb space bear.

Amy: Sheldon, you don't have to worry about me bothering you. I'll be in a different building. And we don't even have to have lunch together.

Sheldon: Really?

Amy: Yes. Before all things, I'm a scientist. I'm just there to do my work and, with a little luck, scare the living crap out of some monkeys.

Sheldon: Hmm. You sure your mothlike personality won't be drawn to this blazing fire that is myself?

Amy: More and more sure.

(S07E05)

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

147) Scene: The guys played a video game and they were beaten by kids.

Sheldon: What happened to me? I used to excel at these things.

Howard: Kids are always better at video games.

Sheldon: Well, I don't like it.

Leonard: Mm, if it makes you feel better, you still dress like a child.

Sheldon: No, but it's not just video games. I downloaded the new O.S. for my phone, took me a week to stop accidentally texting kissy faces to everyone.

Howard: Oh, so our love is not real?

Raj: Well, I know how you feel. I tried one of those electronic Japanese toilets, practically shot myself across the room.

Sheldon: I guess I just need to face it, I'm no longer a wunderkind. Now I just wonder what's for lunch.

(S10E22)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Flouting

148) Scene: The apartment, the guys are having a diner.

Sheldon: Hu-u-u-uh.... Hu-u-u-uh!

Leonard: Problem?

Sheldon: This is Thai food.

Howard: Here we go.

Sheldon: We don't have Thai food on Thursday. We have pizza on Thursday.

Leonard: Yes, but we all agreed that the third Thursday of every month would be Anything Can Happen Thursday.

(S02E20)

Manner Flouting

Quantity Flouting

149) Scene: Sheldon is watching Amy during her work.

Sheldon: Aren't you slicing that man's brain a little too thin?

Amy: It's too thin if I were making a foot-long brain sandwich at Quiznos. For examination under a two-photon microscope, it's fine.

Sheldon: Well, you're the expert. If the correct way to do it is the wrong way, then I yield.

Amy: Very well. If you die and donate your body to science, I promise to slice your brain like Canadian bacon.

(S04E10)

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

150) Scene: Sheldon is at Amy's place. Amy is playing her harp and singing.

Amy: I'm a cowboy, on a steel horse I ride. I'm wanted... I'm wanted... wanted, dead or alive. Sheldon, you're ruining girlfriend-boyfriend sing-along night.

Sheldon: I'm sorry. I'm looking for a barber and I'm running out of time. My hair is growing at the rate of 4.6 yoctometers per femtosecond. I mean, if you're quiet, you can hear it.

Amy: What about Supercuts?

Sheldon: I tried once. They do men's and women's hair in the same room at the same time. It's like Sodom and Gomorrah with mousse.

(S05E18)

Relation Flouting

Quality Flouting

151) Scene: The boys entered the cafeteria. Sheldon is starting a new topic.

Sheldon: I believe today is Bernadette's due date.

Howard: Yeah. How do you know that?

Sheldon: Easy. 40 weeks from the date of her last period.

Howard: And why do you know that?

Sheldon: Well, excuse me for taking an interest in people.

(S11E16)

Quantity Infringing

Manner Flouting

152) Scene: Penny is hearing Sheldon and Leonard's argument.

Leonard (voice off): It's just two degrees, Sheldon. I just want to turn up the thermostat two degrees!

Sheldon: (voice off): Let me point out that two degrees can be the difference between water and steam.

Leonard (voice off): Yes, if we lived in a teakettle.

Sheldon: (voice off): This is the temperature you agreed to in the roommate agreement.

Leonard (voice off): Aw, screw the roommate agreement!

Sheldon: (voice off): No, you don't screw the roommate agreement. The roommate agreement screws you.

Leonard (voice off): You know what, go to Hell and set their thermostat.

Sheldon: (voice off): I don't have to go to Hell. At 73 degrees, I'm there already!

(S03E22)

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

153) Scene: Leonard and Sheldon, Inside Leonard's car. Penny asked Leonard to go to her ex-boyfriend and make him return Penny her TV.

Sheldon: I really think we should examine the chain of causality here.

Leonard: Must we?

Sheldon: Event A. A beautiful woman stands naked in our shower. Event B. We drive half way across town to retrieve a television set from the aforementioned woman's ex-boyfriend. Query, on what plane of existence is there even a semi-rational link between these events?

Leonard: She asked me to do her a favour, Sheldon.

Sheldon: Ah, yes, well that may be the proximal cause of our journey, but we both know it only exists in contradistinction to the higher level distal cause.

Leonard: Which is?

Sheldon: You think with your penis.

(S01E01)

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

154) Scene: Sheldon needs help from Penny, and he takes her into his apartment. They are standing outside Leonard's bedroom door. Bryan Adams "Have You Ever Loved A Woman" is emerging. There is a tie on the bedroom door.

Sheldon: Well?

Penny: Well what?

Sheldon: What does it mean?

Penny: Oh, come on, you went to college.

Sheldon: Yes, but I was eleven.

Penny: Alright, look, a tie on the doorknob usually means someone doesn't want to be disturbed because they're, you know, getting busy.

Sheldon: So you're saying Leonard has a girl in there.

Penny: Well, either that or he's lost his tie rack and gotten really into Bryan Adams.

(S01E05)

Quantity Flouting

Quality Flouting

155) Scene: Penny has invited the boys to her Halloween party.

Sheldon: A Halloween party?

Howard: As in, costumes?

Penny: Well, yeah.

Leonard: Is there a theme?

Penny: Um, yeah, Halloween.

Sheldon: Yes, but are the costumes random, or genre specific?

Penny: As usual, I'm not following.

Leonard: He's asking if we can come as anyone from science-fiction, fantasy...

Penny: Sure.

Sheldon: What about comic-books?

Penny: Fine.

Sheldon: Anime?

Penny: Of course.

Sheldon: TV, film, D&D, Manga, Greek Gods, Roman Gods, Norse Gods...

Penny: Anything you want, okay? Any costume you want. Bye.

(S01E06)

Manner Infringing

Quantity Infringing

156) Scene: Penny accidentally has destroyed Sheldon's spot on the couch. Leonard is now nervous about the consequences.

Leonard: Sheldon! How was the comic book store?

Sheldon: Fine. The new issue of Flash is out.

Leonard: Great, great. Did you walk the whole way? It's a little chilly.

Sheldon: Koothrappali picked me up.

Leonard: Isn't that terrific? He is such a good friend. You know what the best thing about friends is?

Sheldon: They don't talk incessantly for no particular reason.

Leonard: No, no, friends forgive the little things.

(S02E16)

Relation Violation

Manner Flouting

157) Scene: Raj, Howard, and Sheldon are in the cafeteria discussing the Star Trek movies when Leonard joins them.

Leonard: Hey, Sheldon, I was up in the administration office, and I happened to overhear the name of the winner of this year's Chancellor's Award for Science.

Sheldon: And you want to rub my nose in the fact that my contributions are being overlooked again? I am the William Shatner of theoretical physics. All right, I'll play. What self-important, preening fraud are they honoring this year?

Leonard: Oh, I'm so glad you asked it like that. You.

Sheldon: I won?

Leonard: You won.

Sheldon: I won! This is astonishing. Not that I won the award, no one deserves it more. Actually, I guess I misspoke. It's not astonishing, more like inevitable. I'm not sure what to do first. Maybe I should call my mother. Wait! I know, I'm going to conduct an interview with myself and post it online.

Raj: Well, good for him.

Howard: Yeah, the one thing the William Shatner of theoretical physics needed was an ego boost.

(S03E18)

Quality Flouting

Relation + Quantity Infringing

158) Scene: Penny is doing the laundry in the laundry room when Sheldon enters.

Sheldon: Hello.

Penny: Hey. Isn't tomorrow your usual laundry night?

Sheldon: The supermarket was out of my regular fabric softener. If this one under or over-softens, I'll need time to make things right.

Penny: That's thinking ahead.

Sheldon: The alternative would be to think backwards. And that's just remembering.

(S04E10)

Infringing Manner

Infringing Relation

159) Scene: Amy and Sheldon always have sex only on Amy's birthday – which is in few hours.

Amy: I know we only have coitus on my birthday, but I don't know if I can wait until midnight.

Sheldon: Oh, well, you'll be glad you did. Everyone knows the best foreplay is rigid adherence to a strict schedule.

(S11E11)

Manner + Quality Infringing

160) Scene: Stuart, Howard, and Raj are playing video games at Bernadette's and Howard's place.

Howard: I mean, for a while, everything was vampires. Now it's all zombies. I wonder what the next monster fad will be.

Raj: We haven't had a good invisible man in a while.

Stuart: Clearly, you've never seen me try to talk to a woman.

Bernadette: Guys. In the time you've been sitting here playing video games, I got the car washed, picked up cleaning supplies and went to the bank.

Stuart: I put on pants.

Howard: Kiss-ass.

(S08E23)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Flouting

161) Scene: Amy and Sheldon wanted to know whether they can trust Leonard. So, Sheldon told him 'a secret: that he's having an affair'. Leonard proved to be trustworthy, as he didn't tell anybody.

Amy: Well, I am a little hurt that you weren't gonna tell me my husband was having an affair. I thought we were friends.

Leonard: I didn't really believe him.

Amy: Why not? You don't think other women find him attractive?

Leonard (laughing): No.

Sheldon: I suppose you're wondering why I put you through all this.

Leonard: You mean the last two minutes or the last years?

Amy: We need to ask you a big favor.

Leonard: Well, you've certainly gone about it the right way.

(S12E09)

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

162) Scene: Bernadette goes to the comic bookstore. She talks to Denise, who not only works with Stuart but also started dated him.

Bernadette: Hey, Denise. Is Stuart here?

Denise: Oh, no. Doctor's appointment.

Bernadette: Oh, is he okay?

Denise: Not since I've known him.

Bernadette: Which brings up an interesting question. You and Stuart. Why?

Denise: I don't know. My parents owned a funeral home. Read into that what you will.

(S12E09)

Manner Flouting

Relation Opting out

163) Scene: Raj enters the apartment. He is carrying bunch of newspapers.

Raj: Hey! Look what I got everybody.

Leonard: Newspapers? Did you find a portal back to the 1990s?

Penny: No. If he had that, he'd be trying to prevent NSYNC from breaking up.

Raj: Oh, please. I'm glad they broke up. Otherwise, Justin would never have brought sexy back.

(S11E03)

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

164) Scene: The comic bookstore has a new female employee, Denise. Amy goes to talk to her because she needs help.

Amy: You must be Denise.

Denise: Oh, yeah. How can I help you?

Amy: I'm Amy, Sheldon's fiancée.

Denise: Oh. I got to be honest, I wasn't a hundred percent sure you were real.

Amy: Oh, I am. And I heard you and Sheldon had a great time today talking about comic books.

Denise: We did.

Amy: Great. Here's what's gonna happen. You're gonna teach me how to do that.

Denise: Do what?

Amy: Pretend to like comic books.

Denise: Oh, no, I actually like comic books.

Amy: All right, let's not get hung up on semantics. It's late, we got a lot of work to do.

(S11E21)

Quantity Infringing

Manner Infringing

165) Scene: The apartment. Sheldon is standing in the middle of the room. His whiteboard is behind him. Every few moments he turns round suddenly.

Penny: Whatcha doing?

Sheldon: I'm attempting to view my work as a fleeting peripheral image so as to engage the superior colliculus of my brain.

Penny: Interesting. I usually just have coffee. You've been up all night?

Sheldon: Is it morning?

Penny: Yes.

Sheldon: Then I've been up all night.

Penny: And you're stuck?

Sheldon: Why else would a person try to engage their superior colliculus?

Penny: Oh, sorry, sweetie, I can't help you till I've had my coffee.

Leonard: Penny, I told you if you don't put him in his crate at night he just runs around the apartment.

(S03E14)

Manner Infringing

Quality Flouting

166) Scene: *The boys are talking in the apartment.*

Sheldon: Look at this. Elon Musk has a theory that we're all just characters in some advanced civilization's video game.

Leonard: So, some alien kid spent his money on the asthma-and-glasses upgrade for me?

Sheldon: Well, he doesn't say it's a good game.

(S10E02)

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

167) Scene: *The boys were contacted by the Air Force because of a project they are working on. They feel quite uneasy about it.*

Howard: You know, maybe before our meeting we should talk to a lawyer.

Leonard: That's not a bad idea.

Raj: Well, you must have someone in your family that's a lawyer.

Howard: Why? Because I'm Jewish? That's like me saying, hey, you're Indian, doesn't your cousin work in a call center?

Raj: My cousin does work in a call center.

Howard: And my cousin's a lawyer.

Sheldon: We don't need Howard's cousin. No, we have me.

Leonard: You're not a lawyer, Sheldon, you're just a know-it-all.

Sheldon: I am not a know-it-all. I'm a person who knows lots of things and likes to correct other people when they're wrong.

Leonard: That's the definition of being a know-it-all.

Sheldon: Or in German, a Besserwisser.

(S10E02)

Manner + Relation Infringing

Relation Infringing

168) Scene: *Raj prepared a scavenger hunt for the others. He is explaining the rules.*

Raj: Any questions?

Howard: Yes, to be fair, do people who went to Princeton get a head start?

Leonard: It's not funny.

Sheldon: No, Oh, it actually is if you get the joke. It's based on the premise that Princeton isn't a very good school.

Leonard: Ha-ha.

(S07E03)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Infringing

169) Scene: They boys are at a Halloween party. Sheldon is dressed up as Doppler Effect and Leonard as a Hobbit.

Sheldon: Given the reaction to my costume, this party is a scathing indictment of the American education system.

Kurt: What, you're a zebra, right?

Sheldon: Yet another child left behind.

Kurt: And what are you supposed to be, an Elf?

Leonard: No, I'm a Hobbit.

Kurt: What's the difference?

Leonard: Uh, a Hobbit is a mortal Halfling inhabitant of Middle Earth, whereas an Elf is an immortal tall warrior.

Kurt: So why the hell would you want to be a Hobbit?

Sheldon: Because he is neither tall nor immortal, and none of us could be The Flash.

(S01E06)

Manner Flouting

Relation Infringing

170) Scene: Penny does not have enough money to pay the rent. Sheldon want to lend her some.

Sheldon: My expenses account for 46.9% of my after-tax income. The rest is divided up between a small savings account, this deceptive container of peanut brittle and the hollowed-out buttocks of a superhero action figure who shall remain nameless for his own protection. Or her own protection. Take some.

Penny: Really? I mean, are you sure?

Sheldon: I see no large upcoming expenditures unless they develop an affordable technology to fuse my skeleton with adamantium like Wolverine.

Penny: Are they working on that?

Sheldon: I sincerely hope so.

Penny: Okay. Well, thank you. Oh, God, no, I can't. Sheldon honey, I don't want things to be weird between us.

Sheldon: Won't it also be weird if I have to say hello to you every morning on my way to work and you're living in a refrigerator box and washing your hair with rain water?

(S02E14)

Quantity Infringing

Manner Flouting

171) Scene: The boys are at the Cheesecake Factory. Somebody is celebrating birthday there.

Penny: So Leonard, will we be seeing you on Saturday for your free birthday cheesecake?

Sheldon: He can't eat cheesecake, he's lactose intolerant.

Penny: Okay, he can have carrot cake.

Sheldon: What about the cream cheese frosting.

Penny: He can scrape it off.

Leonard: Forget about the cake, how did you know that my birthday is Saturday?

Penny: I did your horoscope, remember, I was going to do everybody's until Sheldon went on one of his typical psychotic rants.

Sheldon: For the record, that psychotic rant was a concise summation of the research of Bertram Forer, who in 1948 proved conclusively through meticulously designed experiments, that astrology is nothing but pseudo-scientific hokum.

Penny: Blah blah blah, a typical Taurus.

(S01E16)

Quantity Flouting

Manner Infringing

172) Scene: The apartment, the boys are Penny ordered Chinese food.

Leonard: Here you go. Oh, you owe me another two dollars. The price of mu-shu pork went up.

Howard: It's getting tougher and tougher to be a bad Jew.

Leonard: Here you go, Penny. Shrimp with lobster sauce.

Penny: Thank you, Leonard. What's my share?

Leonard: Don't worry about it. It's my treat.

Penny: No, really, how much?

Leonard: It's, whatever. Ten, eleven dollars.

Penny: Well, which is it, ten or eleven?

Leonard: Fourteen fifty, but it's no biggie, you'll get the next one.

(S02E14)

Quality Flouting

Quality Violation

Quantity Violation

173) Scene: Sheldon's mother and Amy are talking about Sheldon.

Amy: Do you realize it took me five years to get a massage from him?

Beverly: Oh, well, that still could be a big step for Sheldon.

Amy: Three minutes. And he used a kitchen timer. I felt like a soft-boiled egg.

(S09E23)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Flouting

174) Scene: Leonard, Sheldon, and Penny are returning from a shopping trip.

Sheldon: What a wonderful day, thank you.

Penny: Oh, we're glad you had fun.

Sheldon: Blue Ices and a trip to The Container Store? It's like I died and went to the post-mortem, neuron-induced hallucination commonly mistaken as heaven.

(S09E04)

Manner + Quality Flouting

175) Scene: Howard and Sheldon are playing Dungeons and Dragons.

Sheldon: The entrance to the dungeon is a moss covered door. You manage to open it only to find yourself face-to-face with a hideous, foul-smelling, moss-covered ogre. What do you do?

Howard: I say, „Hey Ma, what's for dinner?”

Sheldon: Seventeen. The ogre is amused by your joke and allows you to pass. By the way, I liked it, too.

(S05E04)

Quality Flouting

Relation Opting out

176) Scene: Sheldon gave a lecture at a university and Leonard, Rajesh and Howard are in the apartment, reading the reviews from the students

Leonard: I found another tweet from a student at Sheldon's lecture. Dr. Cooper has taken a relatively boring subject and managed to make it completely insufferable. Plus, he looks like a giant insect.

Howard: Look. Listen to this one. Does Einstein's theory explain why time flies when you're having fun, but when you're listening to Dr. Cooper, it falls out of the sky, dead?

Raj: Ooh, somebody took pictures and uploaded them to their Flickr account.

Leonard: Wow. How do you get an entire lecture hall to flip you off at the same time?

Howard: Apparently, if you're Sheldon, all you need to do is turn your back.

Penny: Hey, Leonard, is your wi-fi down? I can't get on.

Leonard: Oh, Sheldon changed the password. It's now 'Penny is a freeloader'. No spaces.

Penny: Thanks. What are you guys doing?

Leonard: Sheldon gave a lecture at the university tonight. We're reading the reviews.

Penny: Oh. How'd he do?

Howard: Well, picture the Hindenburg meets Chernobyl meets Three Mile Island meets Tron 2.

Penny: That bad, huh?

Leonard: Read this woman's tweet.

Penny: Listening to Dr. Cooper has made me want to start cutting myself again

(S04E14)

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

Manner + Quality Flouting

177) Scene: Raj prepared a scavenger hunt for the others. One part of the game is supposed to be in the comic bookstore owned by Stuart.

Raj: Oh, hey, thanks for letting me use the comic book store as part of the scavenger hunt.

Stuart: Oh, my pleasure. Always happy to help out with fun things that I wasn't invited to be a part of.

(S07E03)

Quality + Manner Flouting

178) Scene: Sheldon is explaining to Leonard the problem with teleportation.

Sheldon: Here's the problem with teleportation.

Leonard: Lay it on me.

Sheldon: Assuming the device could be invented which would identify the quantum state of matter of an individual in one location and transmit that pattern to a distant location for reassembly, you would not have actually transported the individual. You would have destroyed him in one location and recreated him in another.

Leonard: How about that.

Sheldon: Personally, I would never use a transporter. Because the original Sheldon would have to be disintegrated in order to create a new Sheldon.

Leonard: Would the new Sheldon be in any way an improvement on the old Sheldon?

Sheldon: No, he would be exactly the same.

Leonard: That is a problem.

Sheldon: So, you see it too.

(S01E12)

Relation + Quantity Flouting

179) Scene: Howard is working with S. Hawking, and Sheldon wanted Howie to give Hawking a research paper he wrote. Howard insisted that he must accomplish some tasks first.

Sheldon: I did it. Had to go to three clothing stores, but we finally found a dress that could envelop your mother.

Howard: I should have sent you to the custom car cover place in Altadena. They have her pattern on file.

(S05E21)

Manner Flouting

Quality + Manner Flouting

180) Scene: The boys are in the Cheesecake Factory, and Penny has a shift.

Penny: Well, I'd ask you guys if you want dessert, but I know Sheldon doesn't eat dessert on Tuesdays. And even if Raj wanted something, he couldn't tell me. Howard won't order anything, but he will come up with some sort of skeezy comment involving the words pie or cheesecake. And Leonard's lactose intolerant, so he can't eat anything here without his intestines blowing up like a balloon animal.

(S04E04)

Manner + Quantity Flouting

181) Scene: Leonard and Sheldon are going up the stair. Leonard is carrying a large box.

Leonard: Why do I always have to carry the heavy stuff?

Sheldon: Well, it's very simple. In our ragtag band of scientists with nothing to lose, I'm the smart one, Wolowitz is the funny one, and Koothrappali is the lovable foreigner who struggles to understand our ways and fails. That leaves you, by default, as the muscle.

Leonard: One more floor, and I'd be the pulled muscle.

Penny (who is inside the boys' apartment): Oh, it's about time, I'm starving.

Leonard: Uh, well, we didn't actually get Chinese food.

Penny: Why not?

Leonard: Don't panic, this is better.

Penny: Oh, no, you didn't trade the food for magic beans, did you?

Sheldon: Of course not. And, technically, magic beans would be food, although eating them would be quite a waste, since you could plant them and overnight have a giant beanstalk, which would provide enough roughage for a small city.

(S03E17)

Relation + Quality Flouting

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

182) Scene: Penny, Sheldon and Leonard have just watched Grinch.

Penny: Oh, I always tear up when the Grinch's heart grows three sizes.

Sheldon: Tears seem appropriate. Enlargement of the heart muscle, or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, is a serious disease which could lead to congestive heart failure.

(S03E11)

Quantity + Relation Infringing

183) Scene: Sheldon is working on his computer when Amy enters.

Amy: Hey, whatcha doing?

Sheldon: Improving our wedding photos.

Amy: Oh, that's nice. Wait, I'm still in them, right?

Sheldon: Of course. And not only you. I've added some guests who couldn't be there.

Amy: Who's that next to my father?

Sheldon: The Wright brothers.

Amy: And why are they at our wedding?

Sheldon: Orville, because I admire him; Wilbur, because he was Orville's plus-one.

(S12E04)

Manner Flouting

Relation Infringing

184) Scene: Howard is calling his cousin.

Howard's cousin (on skype): Hello.

Howard: Hey, Marty. Thanks for talking to us.

Marty: Hey, no problem. Thanks for going to outer space so no matter what I do my mom will be disappointed in me.

Howard: Well, I married a little Catholic girl, so we're even.

(S10E02)

Quality Flouting

Manner + Quality Flouting

185) Scene: The boy's are driving to Mexico to Leonard's bachelor party.

Leonard: Hey, watch your speed. I hear the Mexican police target tourists.

Howard: Oh, not a problem. If anything goes down, we just put Koothrappali in the driver's seat and slap a sombrero on his head.

Raj: Dude, how many races can you offend in a single breath?

Howard: I don't know. Have you watched the Olympics with me?

(S09E03)

Quality Flouting

Quality + Relation Flouting

186) Scene: Sheldon meets Penny after he was at the store to buy some things for a female colleague who will stay in his apartment for a few days.

Penny: Hey, Sheldon.

Sheldon: Oh, Penny, excellent. I have a question about these maxi pads. Are the wings truly functional or have I fallen victim to marketing hype?

Penny: What? What are you doing with, what?

Sheldon: The stock boy at Walgreens was frustratingly uninformed on the subject.

Penny: Sheldon, what are you doing with maxi pads?

Sheldon: I have a lady friend who will be staying with me for a few days.

(S03E21)

Relation + Quantity Infringing

187) Scene: Penny has just found out that when she was in Las Vegas and "married" her friend, it wasn't just a play, but an actual legal marriage.

Leonard: I'm hoping you can get an annulment. It's just like it never happened.

Penny: Great, well, what do I have to do?

Amy: It says here you can get an annulment if any of the following conditions are met. Were you unable to consummate the marriage?

Sheldon: Hah! Penny? Next.

Amy: Is there any evidence of fraud, bigamy, want of understanding?

Penny: Want of understanding? What does that even mean?

Amy: Ding, ding, ding. We have a winner.

(S07E09)

Manner Infringing

Manner + Quantity Flouting

188) Scene: Sheldon has just found out that Penny has bought him a Christmas present.

Sheldon: Oh, Penny. I know you think you're being generous, but the foundation of gift-giving is reciprocity. You haven't given me a gift, you've given me an obligation.

Penny: Now, honey, it's okay. You don't have to get me anything in return.

Sheldon: Of course I do. The essence of the custom is that I now have to go out and purchase for you a gift of commensurate value and representing the same perceived level of friendship as that represented by the gift you've given me. It's no wonder suicide rates skyrocket this time of year.

Penny: Okay, you know what? Forget it. I'm not giving you a present.

Sheldon: No, it's too late. I see it. That elf sticker says to Sheldon. The die has been cast, the moving finger has writ, Hannibal has crossed the Alps.

(S02E11)

Manner + Quality Infringing

Quality Violation

Quality Flouting

189) Scene: Guys are just talking in the apartment.

Howard: So, what's your news?

Raj: Remember that little planetary object I spotted beyond the Kuiper belt?

Leonard: Oh yeah, two zero zero eight NQ sub seventeen.

Raj: Or as I called it, Planet Bollywood. Anyway, because of my discovery, People magazine is naming me one of their thirty under-30 to watch.

Leonard and Howard together: Well, wow, that's incredible.

Sheldon: Excuse me. Thirty what, under thirty what, to watch what?

Raj: Thirty visionaries under thirty years of age to watch as they challenge the preconceptions of their fields.

(S02E04)

Quantity + Manner Flouting

Manner Flouting

190) Scene: Sheldon is decorating the Christmas tree with Isaac Newton's bust.

Penny: What is it?

Sheldon: You're kidding, right? It's a bust of Sir Isaac Newton.

Penny: Oh, sure, sure, yeah. Very Christmassy.

Sheldon: Wait, excuse me, but it's much more Christmassy than anything you've put on the tree.

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: December 25, 1642, Julian calendar, Sir Isaac Newton is born. Jesus, on the other hand, was actually born in the summer. His birthday was moved to coincide with a traditional pagan holiday that celebrated the winter solstice with lit fires and slaughtered goats. Which, frankly, sounds like more fun than 12 hours of church with my mother followed by a fruitcake.

(S03E11)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Infringing

191) Scene: The guys are sitting in a cafeteria, discussing a new invention.

Raj: Hey, I read that someone invented a way to convert your footsteps into electromagnetic energy so you can charge your cell phone while walking.

Leonard: We had that idea years ago. How come we never did anything with it?

Howard: Probably because we left the diagram of it in the restaurant, and none of us wanted to walk back.

Sheldon: I know the real reason you never made progress with that idea. You thought of it September 22nd, 2007. Two days later, Penny moved in, and so much blood rushed to your genitals, your brain became a ghost town.

(S07E05)

Quality + Manner Flouting

192) Scene: Leonard and Penny are going to New Jersey.

Leonard: Okay, we should leave in about an hour. You all packed?

Penny: Uh, yeah, I just need to throw in a few last minute things, you know, makeup, underwear, clothes.

Sheldon: If your bathroom floor counts as a carry-on, you're packed.

(S08E22)

Manner + Quality Flouting

193) Scene: The guys play video games and suddenly hear the sound of female laughter from out in the hall.

Howard: Sounds like your neighbor's home.

Leonard: Excuse me.

Sheldon: Don't forget the mail you took accidentally on purpose so you'd have an excuse to talk to her.

(S01E03)

Quantity + Manner Infringing

194) Scene: Howard and Lesley's lab.

Leonard: Lesley I would like to propose an experiment.

Lesley: Hang on. I'm trying to see how long it takes a five hundred kilowatt oxygen iodine laser to heat up my cup o' noodles.

Leonard: Pfff, I've done it, about two seconds, 2.6 for minestrone. Anyway, I was thinking more of a bio-social exploration with a neuro-chemical overlay.

Lesley: Wait, are you asking me out?

Leonard: I was going to characterize it as the modification of our colleague/friendship paradigm, with the addition of a date-like component. But we don't need to quibble over terminology.

(S01E03)

Relation Opting out + Manner Flouting
Manner Flouting

195) Scene: Leonard's mother came for a visit.

Leonard: So, Mother, what's new?

Beverly: You'll have to be more specific.

Leonard: All right. Uh, what's new with you?

Beverly: Oh, well, I've been having some fascinating menopausal symptoms recently.

Leonard: Maybe something less personal.

Beverly: Oh. Your Uncle Floyd died.

Leonard: Oh, my God. What happened?

Beverly: His heart stopped beating. I have to urinate.

(S02E15)

Quantity Infringing

Relation Infringing

196) Scene: Sheldon and Leonard's apartment. Leonard enters from bedrooms, dressed in a smart shirt and trousers, before a date with Penny. The shirt is covered in sweat stains.

Leonard: How do I look?

Sheldon: Could you be more specific?

Leonard: Can you tell I'm perspiring a little?

Sheldon: No. The dark crescent-shaped patterns under your arms conceal it nicely. What time is your date?

Leonard: Six thirty.

Sheldon: Perfect, that gives you two hours and fifteen minutes for that dense molecular cloud of Aramis to dissipate.

Leonard: Is it too much?

Sheldon: Not if you're a rugby team.

(S01E03)

Quality Flouting
Quality + Manner Flouting
Manner Flouting

197) Scene: The apartment. Sheldon is calling to Siam Palace to order food.

Sheldon: And good evening to you, Siam Palace. This is Sheldon Cooper. Yeah, I'm going to be dining alone this evening, so I'll be reducing my usual order. I'd like to start with one quarter of the assorted appetizers plate and, uh, one half of the golden treasure for two. Oh, for heaven's sake, in the mid-18th century, King Rama IV of Siam divided a huge empire amongst the colonial powers of Europe in order to preserve his throne. Surely, you, his cultural descendant, can handle pad thai and dumplings.

(S03E08)

Manner + Relation Flouting

198) Scene: Howard's mom broke her leg and needs somebody to take care of her.

Leonard: How's your mom holding up?

Howard: She's doing okay, but we just lost another nurse.

Amy: How many is that now?

Howard: Two, and I know what you're thinking, she's eating them.

Bernadette: She's just so impossible, they keep quitting.

Sheldon: So, who's watching her now?

Howard: A bowl full of M&M's with a few Ambien tossed in.

(S07E24)

Quality Flouting
Manner + Quality Flouting

199) Scene: Mrs. Wolowitz is in a hospital and others are waiting there for the medical test results.

Sheldon: Howard, I have to go to the bathroom and no one will take me home.

Howard: What's wrong with the bathroom here?

Sheldon: Pneumococcus, streptococcus, staphylococcus and other assorted coccuses.

(S04E23)

Quality + Manner Infringing

Scene: Raj is temporarily living in Sheldon's old room, as he has no place to stay. Sheldon welcomes Rajesh as a new inhabitant of the building.

Raj: This means a lot.

Sheldon: Well, I know this is a difficult time for you. You're losing your apartment, you're in debt, and you just, you must be humiliated.

Amy: Sheldon.

Sheldon: Oh, good grief. She is such a stickler for citing sources. Those were Amy's words.

Amy: Sheldon.

Sheldon: I know, I know, good grief was originally said by Charlie Brown, geez.

(S10E18)

Flouting the Quantity + Relation

200) Scene: Bernadette's father, Mike, and Howard have a chat at Mrs. Wolowitz house. Mike heard Mrs. Wolowitz complaining about something painful.

Mike: Thanks. What's wrong with your mom?

Howard: Oh, her gout's flaring up. Turns out an apple pie a day does not keep the doctor away.

Mrs. Wolowitz (off): How can one little toe hurt so bad?

Howard: Maybe because that little piggy is being crushed by the barn. She should quiet down soon. I gave her enough pain meds to choke a, well, her.

(S07E09)

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

201) Scene: Sheldon visits Penny's place for the first time.

Leonard: So Penny's a little messy.

Sheldon: A little messy? The Mandelbrot set of complex numbers is a little messy, this is chaos. Excuse me, explain to me an organizational system where a tray of flatware on a couch is valid. I'm just inferring that this is a couch, because the evidence suggests the coffee table's having a tiny garage sale.

(S01E02)

Manner Infringing + Quality Flouting

Combination – Three Maxims

202) Scene: Howard and Sheldon are having an argument about a cricket they found. Sheldon claims that he is hundred percent sure about the kind of the cricket.

Howard: No, no, not this time. I know insects, my friend, I spent many childhood years capturing them with nets, putting them in glass jars, sticking pins through them, mounting them on corrugated cardboard with Dymo labels underneath, identifying the genus and species. In Latin.

Raj: Oh, dude, you are never getting a shiksa goddess.

Sheldon: That is a snowy tree cricket. *Oecanthus fultoni*. I was done with Latin by fifth grade.

Howard: Okay, okay, tell you what. I am willing to bet anything that's an ordinary field cricket.

Sheldon: I can't take your money.

Howard: What's the matter, you chicken?

Sheldon: I've always found that an inappropriate slur. Chickens are not, by nature, at all timid. In fact, when I was young, my neighbour's chicken got loose and chased me up the big elm tree in front of our house.

Raj: Chickens can't climb trees.

Sheldon: Thank God.

(S03E02)

Relation Flouting

Quality Flouting

Relation + Quantity Infringing

203) Scene: Howard and Sheldon are fighting about a cricket they found the previous night.

Raj: Ugh, Toby, what did you do in a past life to be so disgusting now?

Sheldon: His name isn't Toby. Toby is an absurd name for a cricket.

Raj: What would you name him?

Sheldon: An appropriate cricket name. For example, Jiminy.

Howard: All right, Sheldon, here we go, Kleingast's Field Guide to North American Insects. Hey, Toby. Right here, see it? The common field cricket, aka Gryllus assimilis, which is Latin for suck it, you lose.

Sheldon: Hang on. Voilà, the snowy tree cricket, aka Oecanthus fultoni, which is Latin for I'll suck nothing. Of course, I'm joking because the Latin for that is nihil exsorbibo.

Howard: That is not Toby, this is Toby. Raj, what do you think?

Raj: Oh, I really don't care anymore

Leonard: God, I had the most horrible night.

Raj: What happened?

Sheldon: Obviously another carnal fiasco with the shiksi goddess.

Howard: Shiksa. Shik-sa.

Sheldon: Forgive me. Yiddish was not spoken in east Texas. And if it was, it wasn't spoken for long.

Howard: Yeah, fine, whatever. The point is, you're wrong again.

Sheldon: We haven't established that I'm wrong once.

Howard: All right. Tell you what, let's go down to the Entomology Department and let Professor Crawley tell us what kind of cricket Toby is.

Sheldon: He's a snowy tree cricket, and his name is Jiminy. *(They leave)*

Leonard: I bet I could throw a rock in this room and come up with three better friends.

(S03E02)

Quality Flouting

Relation Flouting

Manner + Quality Flouting

Quality Opting out + Relation Infringing

204) *Scene: Howard is going to meet Sheldon's idol, Stephen Hawking, and he tells Rajesh and Leonard that he wants to take Sheldon with him.*

Howard: I was actually thinking about bringing him along when I go over there so he can meet the great man.

Raj: That's really nice of you, Howard.

Howard: Hm, it's no big deal.

Leonard: Boy, a restraining order from Stephen Hawking. It'll look so nice next to the ones he's already got from Leonard Nimoy, Carl Sagan and Stan Lee.

(S05E21)

Quality + Manner + Relation Flouting

205) *Scene: Sheldon needs to use the bathroom while Leonard is taking a shower.*

Sheldon: Leonard, are you in the shower?

Leonard: I can't hear you, I'm in the shower.

Sheldon: I asked if you were in the shower, but that's moot now.

Leonard: What?

Sheldon: Moot. Rendered unimportant by recent events.

Leonard: I can't hear you, I'm in the shower.

(S04E21)

Manner + Quantity Flouting

Relation Infringing

206) *Scene: The guys are playing Dungeons and Dragons. Raj is eating a pie to suppress his sadness.*

Leonard: Are you gonna eat that whole pie?

Raj: Maybe. Why not? Who do I have in my life to watch my figure for?

Leonard: Oh, God, did you watch Bridget Jones again?

Raj: No, it's just that everybody's got someone. Sheldon's with Amy, Howard's getting married, you're dating my sister.

Leonard: Now that Howard's getting married, maybe he'll inflate one of his old girlfriends for you.

Raj: You know who I blame for my loneliness? The United States of America. Your movies and your TV shows promised streets paved with beautiful blonde women with big bazongas.

Howard: Eat another pie, you'll have your own bazongas.

Raj: That's cruel. You know it goes straight to my hips.

Sheldon: Gentlemen, please focus. You're facing a fire-breathing dragon.

Raj: I don't know if I want to play anymore.

Sheldon: Because you don't have a girlfriend? Well, good Lord, if that becomes a reason not to play Dungeons and Dragons, this game's in serious trouble.

(S05E04)

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

Manner Flouting

207) Scene: Sheldon rushes from the line in front of the cinema, in which he has been standing all day, to Amy's place so that he could apologize to her. Beverly, Leonard's mother, is with Amy, as well as the other girls.

Sheldon: Hello, everyone. Oh, Beverly, good to see you. I'd love to chat, but there's a line that could start moving any minute, so let's do this. Amy? A proper apology requires three steps. Step one, an admission of wrongdoing. Amy, I was wrong. Step two, a promise never to repeat said action. Amy, that action will never be repeated, and that's a promise. Step three, an earnest request for forgiveness. Amy, I hope you can forgive me. And I hope you do it right now, 'cause there's an Uber waiting downstairs, and I don't want to repeat this apology nonsense with my driver Ganesh.

(S09E23)

Manner + Quantity + Relation Infringing

208) Scene: For the last several days, Sheldon has been working on the same physics problem. In the middle of the night he comes to Penny and Leonard's bedroom to tell them he has a solution.

Sheldon: Einstein.

Leonard: Yeah, I'm going to need a little more.

Sheldon: Albert Einstein.

Leonard: Keep going.

Sheldon: When Albert Einstein came up with special relativity, he was working at the patent office.

Leonard: So, you're going to go work at the patent office?

Sheldon: Don't be absurd. That's in Washington. You know I could never live in a city whose streets are laid out in a wheel-and-spoke pattern. No. I'm going to find a similarly menial job where my basal ganglia are occupied with a routine task, freeing my prefrontal cortex to work quietly in the background on my problem.

Leonard: Sounds like a great plan.

Sheldon: Of course, it is. Even talking to you is sufficiently menial that I can feel the proverbial juices starting to flow.

(S03E14)

Quantity Flouting

Quantity Infringing

Relation Infringing

Manner Infringing

209) Scene: Bernadette has destroyed one of Howard's comic books, so she went to the comic bookstore to get help from Stuart.

Bernadette: Well, I need a little help. I accidentally destroyed one of Howard's comic books this morning, and was hoping I could replace it.

Stuart: Wow. What happened?

Bernadette: Batman got his ass kicked by my curling iron.

Stuart: Well, don't let The Riddler know that. It's a comic book joke. Or maybe it's not.

Bernadette: Do you have this one?

Stuart: Uh, well, it's, it's pretty rare. Can you give me a few days to track it down?

Bernadette: Ooh, I was kind of hoping to get it before Howie comes home from work.

Stuart: Oh. What's the hurry?

Bernadette: Well, he's always saying I should be more careful with my curling iron, and it seems like a dangerous precedent to let him think he can be right.

(S07E13)

Quality Flouting

Quantity Infringing

Manner Flouting

210) Scene: Howard, Raj and Leonard formed a team because of a physics competition. Sheldon is not part of the team, so the guys needed a fourth person. They choose Leslie, Sheldon's enemy.

Leslie: Hello, Sheldon.

Sheldon: Leslie Winkle?

Leslie: Yeah, Leslie Winkle. The answer to the question, who made Sheldon Cooper cry like a little girl?

Sheldon: Yes, well, I'm polymerised tree sap and you're non-organic adhesive so, whatever verbal projectile you launch in my direction is reflected off of me, returns on its original trajectory, and adheres to you.

Leslie: Oh, ouch.

(S01E13)

Quantity Flouting

Quality Flouting

Manner Infringing

211) Scene: The boys are talking during diner.

Howard: I'm thinking about growing a goatee (*shows what he means by ,goatee'*).

Raj: Oh, actually that's a Van Dyke. A goatee is just hair on the chin.

Leonard: Oh. Wait, then what is it if you just have hair up here?

Raj: You mean a moo-stache?

Leonard: Moo-stache.

Howard: He said it.

Raj: Ha-ha, very funny. Make fun of the foreign guy. For your information, there are four times as many Indians as there are Americans, so the way we say it is right.

(S07E16)

Manner Infringing

Quality Flouting

Quality Violation

212) Scene: Penny wants to discuss her career with Sheldon.

Penny: (Knock, knock, knock) Sheldon. (Knock, knock, knock) Sheldon. (Knock, knock, knock) Sheldon.

Sheldon: I bet that started off as a joke, but by the third one you realized there was something strangely enjoyable about it.

Penny: Yeah, I kind of want to do it again.

Sheldon: I don't recommend it. You'll be doing it the rest of your life. Anyway, if you're looking for Leonard, he's with Koothrappali.

Penny: Uh, no, I actually came to talk to you.

Sheldon: How nice. Here are some topics that interest me, quantum mechanics, trains, flags.

Penny: No, no. It's about my acting career.

Sheldon: Oh, sorry. That's not on the list.

Penny: Well.

Sheldon: Oh, wait. No. How about we split the difference and discuss why Austria was an archduchy and not just a regular duchy.

Penny: Okay, look, here's the thing. I like pharmaceutical sales, it's going great, but I have an audition for a movie, and if I get it, it could screw everything up.

Sheldon: Hmm. I know exactly what you should do. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you.

Penny: Well, why?

Sheldon: I'm attempting to turn over a new leaf. Earlier today, it was pointed out to me that I tend to force my ideas on people.

Penny: You're really not gonna tell me?

Sheldon: No, that train has left the station. Now, we can play this one of two ways. You can say, trains, tell me more, or you can just look at me like that and I'll start.

(S08E21)

Relation Opting out

Quantity Infringing

Relation Infringing

Quantity Opting out

Quality Flouting

213) Scene: Penny is eating with the boys in their apartment while she is telling them a story.

Penny: Okay, so Kim the night manager went on maternity leave, and her husband's name is Sandy, right? So get this, her replacement is a woman named Sandy whose husband's name is Kim.

Leonard: Wow!

Penny: I know. What are the odds?

Sheldon: Easily calculable, we begin by identifying the set of married couples with unisex names. We then eliminate those unqualified for restaurant work, the aged, the imprisoned and the limbless, for example. Next we look at...

Leonard: Sheldon! it's an amazing coincidence, can we leave it at that?

Sheldon: I'm sorry. Ooh, Penny, it's as if the Cheesecake Factory is run by witches.

(S03E03)

Quantity Flouting

Relation Infringing

Quality Flouting

214) Scene: Howard is starting to panic because he thinks he would not be able to raise a son. He has just found out that he is not even able to launch a little rocket.

Howard: Well, that's perfect. I mean, the one thing I thought I could do with my son, I can't even do that right.

Sheldon: Well, if you want to see it again, I got it on video. Looks pretty cool in slow motion.

Howard: Thank you for your support.

Sheldon: You're welcome.

Howard: I was being sarcastic.

Sheldon: How dare you!

Howard: Sheldon, what am I gonna do? I mean, what do I know about raising a boy?

Sheldon: What do you know about raising a girl?

Howard: Oh, my god, you're right.

Sheldon: Well, I don't know if that was sarcasm or not. So either "You're welcome" or "Hey!".

(S11E04)

Relation Infringing

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

215) Scene: The building entrance lobby. The guys enter. Sheldon is dressed as a medieval monk, Howard is a court jester, Raj is a medieval gentleman and Leonard is a knight.

Sheldon: Worst Renaissance Fair ever.

Leonard: Please let it go, Sheldon.

Sheldon: It was rife with historical inaccuracies. For example, the tavern girl serving flagons of mead, now her costume was obviously Germanic, but in 1487 the Bavarian purity laws or Rhineheitsgebot severely limited the availability of mead. At best they would have had some sort of spiced wine.

Leonard: You're nitpicking.

Sheldon: Oh-ho! Really? Well here's another nit for you. The flagons would not have been made of polypropylene.

Howard: Renaissance fairs aren't about historical accuracy. They're about taking chubby girls who work at Kinko's and lacing them up in corsets so tight their bosom jumps out and says howdy.

Sheldon: Bosoms would not have said howdy in the fifteenth century. If anything they would have said "huzzah!"

Howard: I don't care what the bosoms say, Sheldon, I just want to be part of the conversation.

(S02E02)

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

216) Scene: *The guys are talking in the apartment.*

Sheldon: Is anyone else troubled by the Spider-Man theme song?

Leonard: Why would it trouble you? It's, like, your third favorite cartoon theme song.

Sheldon: It is, right behind do-do-do-do Inspector Gadget., and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, heroes in a half-shell.

Howard and Raj (together): Turtle power!

Sheldon: However, the Spider-Man lyrics posit that Spider-Man, Spider-Man does whatever a spider can.

Howard: Yeah, so?

Sheldon: I can think of many things Spider-Man can't do that a spider can. One, crawl in your ear and die. Two, legally leave Guatemala without a passport. Three, have sex with a spider.

Raj: Can we change the subject? Spiders give me the jeebie-jeebies.

Howard: It's heebie-jeebies.

Raj: I know, but that sounds anti-Semitic.

(S06E10)

Relation Infringing

Relation Opting out

Manner Infringing

217) Scene: *The boys are eating in the apartment.*

Sheldon: Clarify something for me. Isn't the point of a communal meal the exchange of ideas and opinions? An opportunity to consider important issues of the day?

Leonard: It is. You just kind of put a damper on things when you said, the next person I see talking with food in their mouth will be put to death.

Sheldon: Well, we could argue about who said what all night long, but to set things back on course, I will propose a new topic of conversation.

Leonard: Great.

Sheldon: What is the best number? By the way, there's only one correct answer.

Raj: Five million, three hundred eighteen thousand and eight?

Sheldon: Wrong. The best number is 73. You're probably wondering why.

Leonard: No.

Howard: Uh-uh.

Raj: We're good.

Sheldon: 73 is the 21st prime number. Its mirror, 37, is the 12th, and its mirror, 21, is the product of multiplying, hang on to your hats, seven and three. Eh? Eh? Did I lie?

Leonard: We get it. 73 is the Chuck Norris of numbers.

Sheldon: Chuck Norris wishes. In binary, 73 is a palindrome, one-zero-zero-one-zero-zero-one which backwards is one-zero-zero-one-zero-zero-one, exactly the same. All Chuck Norris backwards gets you is Sirron Kcuhc.

Raj: Just for the record, when you enter five million three hundred eighteen thousand and eight in a calculator, upside-down it spells boobies.

(S04E10)

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

Quantity Infringing

Quantity Flouting

218) Scene: Leonard and Priya, Raj's sister, started dating again despite Rajesh's disapproval.

Priya: Hi, Howard. Hi, Sheldon.

Howard: Hey.

Sheldon: Hello.

Raj: Why are you holding hands? I forbid you to hold hands.

Priya: Rajesh, you know Leonard and I spent the night together.

Raj: Yeah, but you were just sleeping, because I forboded you to have sex.

Leonard: The word is forbade.

Raj: Are you sure? That doesn't sound right.

Priya: Listen, Rajesh, Leonard and I have decided to see each other again, and you don't get to tell me who I can and can't have a relationship with.

Sheldon: Actually, he can. The Hindu Code of Manu is very clear in these matters. If a woman's father is not around, the duty of controlling her base desires falls to the closest male member of her family, in this case, Raj. The code also states that if she disobeys, she will be reborn in the womb of a jackal and tormented by diseases. If true, that seems like an awfully large gamble given that the prize is Leonard.

Raj: There it is, Priya. We're Indian. We believe this stuff.

(S04E16)

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

Relation + Quantity Infringing

Quality Violation

219) *Scene: Leonard remembers when he met Sheldon for the first time.*

Leonard: I'm Leonard Hofstadter. I called you about the apartment. You said...

Sheldon: I know what I said. I know what you said. I know what my mother said on March 5, 1992. What is the sixth noble gas?

Leonard: What?

Sheldon: You said you're a scientist. What is the sixth noble gas?

Leonard: Uh, radon?

Sheldon: Are you asking me or telling me?

Leonard: Telling you? Telling you.

(S03E22)

Quantity Infringing

Relation Violation

Manner Infringing

220) *Scene: Sheldon asks Penny and Leonard whether they want to play a game he made up on Sunday.*

Penny: Actually, I have to pick up my friend Justin from the airport.

Leonard: There you go, she has to pick up her friend Justin at the airport, and I can't play 'cause I'm going with her, right?

Penny: Um, yeah, if you want. I mean, there may not be room. He's got a lot of stuff, like guitars and amplifiers.

Leonard: Wait. What are you talking about?

Penny: My friend, Justin.

(S03E07)

Quality Violation

Manner Flouting

Quantity Flouting

221) Scene: Leonard, Howard and Rajesh are in a cafeteria talking about the „rule“ that sex with a woman comes after three dates when Sheldon appears.

Sheldon (arriving): I have something to announce, but out of respect for convention, I will wait for you to finish your current conversation. What are you talking about?

Leonard: The cultural paradigm in which people have sex after three dates.

Sheldon: I see. Now, are we talking date, the social interaction, or date, the dried fruit?

Leonard: Never mind, what's your announcement?

Sheldon: Oh, good, my turn. Well, this is very exciting and I wanted you to be among the first to know...

Kripke: Hey, Cooper, I hear you're going to be on the wadio with Ira Fwatow from Science Fwiday next week.

Sheldon: Thank you, Kripke, for depriving me of the opportunity to share my news with my friends.

Kripke: My pweasure.

Sheldon: My thank you was not sincere.

(S03E09)

Relation Opting out

Quality Flouting

Quality Opting out

222) Scene: Leonard's mother is calling when Leonard is not home. Penny answers the phone.

Penny: Hey, Beverly.

Beverly: Oh, hello, Penny.

Penny: Uh, Leonard just left. He's gonna be so upset he missed your call.

Beverly: Why?

Penny: Because he... yeah, I don't know. How are you?

Beverly: Did you mean personally or professionally?

Penny: Um, personally? Like, what'd you do last night?

Beverly: I had Cuban food at the home of a man with whom I shared unsatisfying intercourse.

Penny: Wow. Okay.

Beverly: And to anticipate your next questions, roasted pork and sideways missionary.

Penny: Sure. Sure. 'Cause you were full.

(S11E04)

Quality Infringing

Relation Infringing

Quantity Infringing

223) Scene: Sheldon and Amy broke up. Since that time, Sheldon has been acting weird.

Leonard: I gotta tell you guys, I'm a little worried about Sheldon.

Howard: We're all a little worried about Sheldon.

Leonard: No, I mean since the Shamy hit a reef.

Howard: Oh, I thought you were just making a generalization, you know, I'm worried about Sheldon someday setting off a low-yield nuclear device because the cafeteria ran out of lime Jell-O.

Raj: What does hit a reef mean?

Leonard: Uh, went splitsville.

Raj: Pardon?

Leonard: Turned to boom-boom.

(S04E03)

Quantity Flouting

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

224) Scene: Sheldon can't solve an equation. Now he's in the cafeteria with other boys.

Sheldon: Electrons move through graphene, act as if they have no mass...

Howard: How long has he been stuck?

Leonard: Intellectually about 30 hours. Emotionally about 29 years.

Sheldon: Unit cell contains two carbon atoms. Interior angle of a hexagon is 120 degrees.

Howard: Have you tried rebooting him?

Leonard: No, I think it's a firmware problem.

(S03E14)

Relation Infringing

Manner + Quality Flouting

Quality Flouting

225) Scene: Sheldon is trying to solve a physics problem. He hasn't slept for the last three days, and now he put marbles all over the floor in the apartment, so that he could better imagine the problem. Leonard, Penny, Howard, and Bernadette are entering the apartment.

Howard: Sheldon, what the hell are you doing?

Sheldon: The same thing I've been doing for three days. Trying to figure out why electrons behave as if they have no mass when travelling through a graphene sheet.

Bernadette: With marbles?

Sheldon: Well, I needed something bigger than peas, now, didn't I?

Bernadette: Sheldon, when was the last time you got any sleep?

Sheldon: I don't know, two, three days. Not important. I don't need sleep, I need answers. I need to determine where in this swamp of unbalanced formulas squatteth the toad of truth.

Penny: Toad of truth? Is that a physics thing?

Leonard: No, that's a crazy thing.

Bernadette: Okay, Sheldon. What happens to our neuroreceptors when we don't get enough REM sleep?

Sheldon: They lose their sensitivity to serotonin and norepinephrine.

Bernadette: Which leads to...?

Sheldon: Impaired cognitive function.

Bernadette: Right, so march in there, brush your teeth and go to bed.

(S03E14)

Relation Infringing

Manner + Quality Infringing

Relation Violation

226) *Scene: Sheldon is at Amy's lab.*

Sheldon: I've invented a science joke, would you like to hear it?

Amy: Sure.

Sheldon: How many Edisons does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Amy: How many?

Sheldon: Who cares? He stole the idea and doesn't deserve his own joke.

Amy: Is that really true?

Sheldon: Of course, that's how you know it's a good joke. It not only entertains, it informs.

(S08E15)

Manner Flouting

Relation Infringing

Quality Infringing

227) *Scene: The opening scene of the episode. It starts in Penny's apartment, and the aim of the opening scenes is that the guys have to alter the Saturday plans so that they could play Dungeons and Dragons together.*

Scene: Penny's apartment.

Penny: Okay, now holding sides of hearth in position, lower mantelpiece assembly onto top tabs.

Leonard: Look at that, I built a fireplace with my own two hands.

Penny: You're so butch.

Leonard: Aw, I got a little paper cut.

Penny: Of course you did. Your hands are softer than veal.

Leonard: Oh, before I forget, Saturday I'm planning a little Dungeons and Dragons night with the guys.

Penny: Really? That's how you're gonna spend your Saturday night?

Leonard: Oh, come on, I hardly ever get a chance to play anymore.

Penny: Oh, you poor thing. Is having a real-life girlfriend who has sex with you getting in the way of your board games?

Leonard: Little bit, yeah.

Scene: The apartment.

Amy: Oh, great! I've always wanted to play Dungeons and Dragons.

Sheldon: Yeah, oh, I'm sorry. I should've mentioned this earlier. You're not invited.

Amy: Why not?

Sheldon: Amy, from time to time, we men need to break free from the shackles of civility and get in touch with our primal animalistic selves.

Amy: By rolling dice and playing make-believe with little figurines?

Sheldon: Yeah, like a bunch of savages.

Scene: Howard and Bernadette's apartment. Bernadette is on the webcam.

Bernadette: Saturday night? But I've been working late all week. That was gonna be our night.

Howard: But I have to go. We play as a group. If-if I'm not there, then everyone will blame you. They'll be all, Bernadette ruined everything. She's the worst. So, you see? I have to play Dungeons and Dragons for the marriage.

Bernadette: You're an idiot.

Howard: I'm your idiot. Forever.

Scene: Raj's apartment.

Raj: So, listen, I know we talked about getting a bite to eat in Silver Lake, and then seeing the Christmas lights in Griffith Park, but Leonard's talking about a big D and D game at his place.

Stuart: Saturday night just went from crazy to epic. Woo-hoo!

(S06E11)

Quality Flouting

Relation Flouting

Manner Infringing

Quality Violation

228) *Scene: Dinner at Penny and Leonard's.*

Bernadette: So, Penny, we were talking to our neighbors, and they're thinking of moving and selling their house.

Penny: Really? Why?

Howard: Something about babies crying and keeping them up all night; it's not important. You guys should totally take a look at it.

Bernadette: Then we could be neighbors.

Amy: Hey. Wait a minute, what about us? I mean, we're married now. Maybe we want to buy the house next door.

Sheldon: Well, Amy, we can't move. I'd have to change all the tags in my underwear.

Amy: You can buy new ones.

Sheldon: What-- new house, new underwear. What am I, in the Witness Protection Program?

(S12E03)

Manner Flouting

Relation + Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

229) Scene: Sheldon is about to receive a science award. The Chancellor Morton has called him to tell him that he is going to have a speech.

Sheldon: They expect me to give a speech at the banquet. I can't give a speech.

Howard: Well, no, you're mistaken. You give speeches all the time. What you can't do is shut up.

Raj: Yeah, before the movie, you did 20 minutes on why guacamole turns brown. It turned brown while you were talking.

Sheldon: I am perfectly comfortable speaking to small groups. I cannot speak to large crowds.

Leonard: What, to you, is a large crowd?

Sheldon: Any group big enough to trample me to death. General rule of thumb is 36 adults or 70 children.

Penny: Sheldon, congratulations. Brought you cheesecake from work. You know, 'cause of your award, not because a busboy sneezed on it.

Sheldon: I'm not accepting the award.

Penny: Why not?

Howard: Turns out the great Sheldon Cooper has stage fright.

Penny: That's no reason to back out. You know, I once got a pretty big honour in high school, and I was terrified about appearing in front of a big crowd, but I went through with it, and you know what? The world looked pretty darn good sitting on a haystack in the back of a Ford F-150 as a member of the Corn Queen's court.

Sheldon: Thank you. Yeah, I'll bear that in mind if I'm ever nominated for the Hillbilly Peace Prize.

Leonard: Sheldon, you're being ridiculous.

Sheldon: Am I? Let me tell you a story.

Howard: Where's 70 children when you need 'em?

Sheldon: I was 14 and graduating summa cum laude from college. Summa cum laude is Latin for with highest honours.

Penny: I just love how you always skip over the part where no one asks.

Sheldon: I was valedictorian and expected to give an address. Even now, I can remember that moment when I walked up to the podium and looked out at the crowd. There must have been thousands of people. My heart started pounding in my chest. I began to hyperventilate. My vision became blurry, and before I knew it... oh, dear. (He faints.)

(S03E18)

Quality Flouting

Quality Violation

Manner Infringing

230) Scene: Sheldon and Leonard are in the cafeteria.

Sheldon: Leonard, where do you stand on the anthropic principle?

Leonard: Interesting question. On the one hand, I always thought...

Sheldon: You don't even know what it is, do you? The anthropic principle states that if we wish to explain why our universe exists the way it does, the answer is that it must have qualities that allow intelligent creatures to arise who are capable of asking the question. As I am doing so eloquently right now.

Leonard: I know what the anthropic principle is.

Sheldon: Of course. I just explained it to you. Now, where do you stand on it?

Leonard: Where do you stand on it?

Sheldon: Strongly pro.

Leonard: Then I believe that God created the world in six days, and on the seventh he made you to annoy me.

(S06E01)

Relation + Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

231) Scene: Sheldon goes to Leonard's lab to tell him some news about their planned experiment.

Sheldon: Leonard, I've got terrible news.

Leonard: What's going on?

Sheldon: Before I tell you, perhaps I should soften the blow. Your face is pleasingly symmetrical.

Leonard: Just tell me.

Sheldon: A Swedish team of physicists is trying to scoop our super-fluid vortex experiment.

Leonard: Oh, well, that kind of stinks.

Sheldon: That kind of stinks? Why aren't you more upset? Did I soften the blow too much? Because this here is more like a Picasso painting.

Leonard: What are we going to do?

Sheldon: Perform the experiment immediately.

Leonard: I'd love to, but we need liquid helium and our shipment's on back order for a month.

Sheldon: A month? What? Are you kidding me? That would have been a good time for you to soften the blow.

Leonard: That shirt brings out the blue in your eyes.

Sheldon: Thank you. Aren't you sweet.

Leonard: Let's go check to see if the university has any helium in reserve.

Sheldon: Did you know that I almost didn't wear this shirt today?

(S09E06)

Relation Opting out

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

Relation Violation

Relation Infringing

232) *Scene: The apartment.*

Sheldon: Well, this sandwich is an unmitigated disaster. I asked for turkey and roast beef with lettuce and swiss on wholewheat.

Raj: What did they give you?

Sheldon: Turkey and roast beef with swiss and lettuce on wholewheat. It's the right ingredients but in the wrong order. In a proper sandwich the cheese is adjacent to the bread to create a moisture barrier against the lettuce. They might as well have dragged this thing through a car wash.

Leonard: I don't believe it.

Sheldon: I know, it's basic culinary science.

Leonard: Some guy is auctioning off a miniature time machine prop from the original film and no-one is bidding on it.

Howard: A time machine from the movie The Time Machine?

Leonard: No, a time machine from Sophie's Choice.

Quantity + Quality Infringing

Relation Infringing

Relation Flouting

Quality Flouting

233) *Scene: Sheldon is complaining about Anything Can Happen Thursday, which was established by the others to escape the routine.*

Howard: Come on, the whole idea behind Anything Can Happen Thursday is to get out of this rut we've been in lately.

Sheldon: Rut? I think you mean consistency. And if we're going to abandon that, then why even call it Thursday? Let's call it Quonko Day and divide it into 29 hours of 17 minutes apiece, and celebrate it by sacrificing a goat to the mighty god Ra.

Raj: I could go for some goat.

(S02E20)

Quality + Manner Flouting

Relation Infringing

234) Scene: Penny's car. Sheldon is driving Penny to the hospital.

Penny: Could you please drive a little faster?

Sheldon: Oh, I think we're going sufficiently fast. What's that?

Penny: Nothing. The engine does that sometimes.

Sheldon: That can't be nothing, the check engine light is on. We need to find a service station.

Penny: No. The light has been on since I bought the car.

Sheldon: All the more reason to consult with a mechanic before it explodes.

Penny: It's not going to explode, just keep driving. Warp speed ahead, Mr. Spock.

Sheldon: Mr. Spock did not pilot the Enterprise. He was the science officer, and I guarantee you that if he ever saw the Enterprise's check engine light blinking, he would pull the ship over immediately.

Penny: Oh, god, I'm gonna lose the arm.

(S03E08)

Manner + Relation Infringing

Quality Flouting

235) Scene: Howard and Sheldon had an argument whether Wolverine was born with a bone claws or not when Leonard entered, and the guys started to talk about Leonard's sex with Penny, which he had the day before.

Leonard: To tell you the truth, I think we were both a little, I don't know...

Raj: Disappointed? Let down?

Howard: Ashamed? Horrified? Repulsed?

Leonard: All I know is, it wasn't the way I dreamed it would be.

Howard: Sex is never the way I dream it's gonna be.

Raj: That's because in your dreams you're a horse from the waist down.

Sheldon: Excuse me, Wolverine: Origin Miniseries issue two, page 22. Retractable bone claws. If you people spent less time thinking about sex and more time concentrating on comic books, we'd have far fewer of these embarrassing moments.

(S03E02)

Manner + Quantity Flouting

Quantity + Relation Flouting

Relation Infringing

236) *Scene: Raj had a job interview.*

Sheldon: Raj, did you get the job with Professor Laughlin?

Raj: No.

Sheldon: I assumed as much. But never fear. Like the subordinate male protagonist in countless action movies who disappears half way through the second reel, I have returned to save the day. Odd, usually, he's met by cheers. Anyway, I was thinking about exploring the string theory implications of gamma rays from dark matter annihilations, and it occurred to me that I could benefit...

Leonard: Excuse me, Sheldon, how many reels before the subordinate male protagonist gets to his point?

Sheldon: I'm sorry, if you didn't cheer at my entrance, it's too late to buy into the premise. Anyway, I got some extra money from the head of the department, and Raj can come work for me.

(S03E04)

Quantity + Relation + Manner Flouting

Relation Flouting

237) *Scene: Priya is ordering food at the Cheesecake Factory.*

Priya: Uh, I'll have the Shepherd's Pie. You want to split that with me?

Leonard: Oh, no, no, no, I don't.

Priya: Why not?

Leonard: Well, you have milk in the taters, milk in the gravy, parmesan crust. Your lactose-intolerant boyfriend will turn into a gas-filled Macy's Day balloon.

Sheldon: Not quite accurate. The Macy's balloons are filled with helium, whereas Leonard produces copious amounts of methane.

(S04E24)

Quality + Quantity Flouting

Relation Infringing

238) *Scene: The Cheesecake Factory. Penny has a shift.*

Penny: Hey. So, you guys ready to order?

Sheldon: Since we come in every Tuesday night at six o'clock and order the same exact thing, and it's now six oh eight, I believe your question not only answers itself but also stands alongside such other nonsensical queries as who let the dogs out? and, uh, how are they hanging?

Penny: Okay. So, the usual, with extra spit on Sheldon's hamburger.

Amy: Penny, a moment? Do you have any plans this weekend?

Penny: Oh, gee, Amy, I'm sorry, I'm actually pretty busy this weekend.

Sheldon: Probably serving food that was ordered today.

Amy: That's too bad. I was hoping you could be my plus-one at the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies' symposium on the impact of current scientific research on societal interactions.

Penny: The what?

(S04E13)

Manner + Quantity Flouting

Relation Flouting

Quality Flouting

Combination – Four Maxims

239) Scene: Sheldon's mom has sent him Nintendo 64. He's telling Leonard that they are going to play it at the evening.

Leonard: I kind of have other plans tonight.

Sheldon: But it's Friday. Friday's always vintage game night. Look, mom included the memory card, we can pick up where I left off in 1999 when I had pernicious anaemia.

Leonard: Well, the thing is, someone's coming over.

Sheldon: Well then, no problem, I have three controllers, the more the merrier.

Leonard: Sheldon, it's a date, I have a date coming over.

Sheldon: Oh, well you can't blame me for not jumping to that conclusion.

Leonard: Why, what's so unusual about me having a date?

Sheldon: Well, statistically speaking...

Leonard: Alright, alright. Well, uh, nevertheless, I have one now and I would appreciate it if you would, you know, make yourself scarce.

Sheldon: Leonard, I am a published theoretical physicist with two doctorates and an IQ which can't be accurately measured by normal tests, how much scarcer could I be?

Leonard: You know what I mean, could you just give us a little privacy?

Sheldon: You want me to leave the apartment?

Leonard: Yes.

Sheldon: You mean just go someplace else and be... someplace else?

Leonard: Yes.

Sheldon: Well, why should I leave, this is my apartment too.

Leonard: I know it is, and if science ever discovers a second member of your species and you two would like some privacy I would be more than happy to get out of your way.

(S02E02)

Quantity Flouting

Quantity Infringing

Relation Infringing

Manner Flouting

240) Scene: Penny finds out that Leonard had a date.

Leonard: Oh, she's a doctor.

Penny: Oh, nice. A doctor doctor, or a you kind of doctor?

Leonard: Doctor doctor. Surgical resident. Smart, pretty. Let me ask you something. If your friend thinks he's dating someone, but he's not because, in fact, you're dating her, does that make you a bad person?

Penny: Well, that depends.

Leonard: On what?

Penny: Is that friend Wolowitz?

Leonard: Yeah.

Penny: Screw him. You're fine.

(S02E08)

Manner Infringing

Quantity Infringing

Relation Flouting

Quality Flouting

241) Scene: Penny and Sheldon met in the lobby. Penny broke up with Leonard, and Sheldon does not know whether he can talk to Penny or not, as Leonard is his best friend.

Penny: Oh, damn, they cancelled my Visa. Oh, yay, a new MasterCard!

Sheldon: Uh-oh.

Penny: What?

Sheldon: I was going to get my mail.

Penny: Okay. Are you hoping to get it telepathically?

Sheldon: I think you mean telekinetically. And no, I just wasn't sure of the proper protocol now that you and Leonard are no longer having coitus.

Penny: God, can we please just say no longer seeing each other?

Sheldon: Well, we could if it were true. But as you live in the same building, you see each other all the time. The variable which has changed is the coitus.

Penny: Okay, here's the protocol, you and I are still friends, and you stop saying coitus.

(S03E20)

Quantity Flouting

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

Manner Infringing

242) Scene: Penny and Sheldon met in the hall. Penny broke up with Leonard, so the conversation is quite hard for Sheldon.

Penny: So, how you been?

Sheldon: Well, my existence is a continuum, so I've been what I am at each point in the implied time period.

Penny: You're just coitusing with me, aren't you?

Sheldon: Bazinga.

Penny: Mmm. How's Leonard doing?

Sheldon: He seems all right. Although he does spend a disturbing amount of time looking at photographs of you and smelling the pillow you slept on. Oh, but now that I think of it, he asked me not to tell you that.

Penny: I'll pretend I didn't hear it.

Sheldon: I'd rather you pretend I didn't say it.

(S03E20)

Relation + Manner Flouting

Manner Flouting

Quality Opting out

Quantity Infringing

243) *Scene: Penny, Sheldon, and Leonard are in the lobby. Sheldon is checking the mailbox.*

Sheldon: Oh, I got a letter from my Meemaw. Umm. Smell this.

Penny: What is that?

Sheldon: Uh, roses, bengay, and Dr. Scholls' foot powder.

Penny: Ah, yeah, Grandma by Calvin Klein. You know, the last time I got a hand written letter it was from someone who told me I parked like a blind person.

Leonard: That someone has a name.

Sheldon: Uh, thank you. Oh, Meemaw got a new set of teeth. Oh, but then she found her old ones. Oh, so now the new ones are just gonna be her church teeth.

Leonard: Fun. Like your Comic-Con Spock ears and your around the house Spock ears.

Penny: I park fine.

Sheldon: Oh, my goodness, she's coming to visit!

Leonard: Oh, it'll be nice to finally meet her.

Sheldon: Oh, you are going to love her. She is the kindest, sweetest woman you'll ever meet. Unless you're a gopher digging up her vegetable garden. In that case, you can expect to have your head bashed in with a shovel.

(S09E14)

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

Manner Flouting

Relation Flouting

244) *Scene: Sheldon wants to make space on their DVR.*

Sheldon: Oh, dear. Penny, have you been recording shows on our DVR again?

Penny: No.

Sheldon: Answer honestly. This is not a trial. That'll come later.

Penny: Absolutely not. Help me out here, I can't afford another demerit.

Leonard: Yeah. Uh, maybe we were hacked. You know, the Chinese have been hacking everything lately.

Sheldon: Why would the Chinese make our DVR record Paul Blart: Mall Cop?

Leonard: I don't know. It's a fat guy on a Segway. That's funny everywhere.

Sheldon: I'm deleting it.

Penny: Well, hang on. Maybe the Chinese haven't finished watching it yet.

Leonard: You know, if you're trying to make space on the DVR, why don't you just get rid of some of the stuff you've already watched? Like, um, Alphas.

Sheldon: No, that's the season two finale. That was quite the cliffhanger. I'm going to re-watch it before season three starts.

Leonard: There is no season three. They cancelled that show.

Sheldon: Well, they can't cancel it. It ended on a cliffhanger.

Leonard: They did.

Penny: Uh, Sheldon, there are two dumplings left. Do you want them?

Sheldon: Dumplings? Don't you understand what's going on here?

Penny: As a rule, no.

Sheldon: That show ended with all the residents of New York either dead or unconscious. Oh, now I'll never know what happened.

Penny: Well, why don't you make up your own ending?

Sheldon: Oh, sure, what a wonderful idea. And after that, I'll make up my own rules of oral hygiene. You know, instead of flossing, I'll rub pudding on my gums. I'm going to get the number of the SyFy Channel and give them what for.

(S06E21)

Quality Violation

Manner + Quantity Flouting

Relation Infringing

Quality Flouting

245) Penny is about to have dinner with the boys.

Penny: Okay, it's done. Look, guys, for the future, I don't mind killing the big spiders, but you have to at least try with the little ones.

Sheldon: Penny, please, we're facing a far more serious problem than stray arachnids.

Leonard: Sheldon, it's not that bad.

Sheldon: Not bad? It's horrible. I mean, you hear stories about this sort of thing, but you never think it'll happen to you.

Leonard: So they steamed your dumplings, get over it. New topic, please.

Howard: All right, Penny, let me take this opportunity to point out that you are looking particularly ravishing today.

Penny: Not with a thousand condoms, Howard.

Howard: So, there is a number.

Penny: Okay, new topic, please. Hey, did you hear the people upstairs in 5A are moving out?

Leonard: Shh-shh-shh!

Sheldon: What?

Penny: The people upstairs are moving out.

Leonard: No!

Sheldon: The horror!

Leonard: Why would you just say something like that?

Sheldon: No, no, no, no, no, no, no...

Penny: How else was I supposed to say it?

Leonard: Slowly, like putting a new fish in a tank. You don't just drop it in, you let the bag sit in the water a while.

Sheldon: The horror!

Penny: Sheldon, I'm sure it's going to be fine.

Sheldon: No, it's not going to be fine, change is never fine. They say it is, but it's not.

Penny: Okay, honey, did you even know the people that are moving out?

Sheldon: I never met them. That's what made them perfect, there were no awkward hellos in the halls, there was no clickety-clacking of high heel shoes on hardwood floors, they may as well have been a family of cats just jumping around from drape to drape without that annoying ammonia urine smell.

Penny: Well, I'm sure the new people will be just as quiet.

Sheldon: You can't know that. How can you possibly know that?

Penny: You're right, I can't. You know what? Anyone could rent that apartment now, an opera singer, the cast of stomp, yeah, a tap-dancing pirate with a wooden leg.

(S02E19)

Relation Infringing

Quantity Flouting

Relation Opting out

Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

Quality Violation

246) *Scene: The boys and Penny are in the apartment. Leonard has ordered pizza.*

Leonard: Sheldon, six bucks.

Sheldon: No, thank you. I'm not eating pizza tonight.

Penny: But it's Thursday. Thursday's pizza night.

Sheldon: Not for me. Thursday is now Cruciferous Vegetable Night. Tonight's selection, brussels sprouts.

Howard: Really? You're changing the Sheldonian calendar?

Sheldon: It's a small price to pay.

Penny: For what?

Leonard: No, no, don't ask.

Penny: Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry.

Sheldon: In order to live long enough to fuse my consciousness with cybernetics, I need to change my diet.

Penny: Wait. Cybernetics is robot stuff, right?

Sheldon: Correct.

Penny: So you want to turn yourself into some sort of robot?

Sheldon: Essentially, yes.

Penny: Okay, here's my question. Didn't you already do that?

Sheldon: Flattering, but sadly, no. I'm also planning to begin an exercise regimen designed to strengthen my cardiovascular system. AKA jogging.

Penny: Wait. Honey, have you ever run before?

Sheldon: Certainly. I've run from bullies, dogs, angry chickens, and one particularly persistent P.E. teacher determined to bend me over and give me a scoliosis test.

(S04E02)

Quantity Flouting

Quantity Infringing

Quality Flouting

Relation Infringing

Manner Infringing

247) *Scene: Leonard and Sheldon are in the apartment.*

Sheldon: Boy, do I have to urinate.

Leonard: If only there were a solution to that.

Sheldon: Seriously. I feel like I've got a fish tank in my pelvis.

Leonard: So go to the bathroom.

Sheldon: I can't.

Leonard: Why not?

Sheldon: Because I'm trying to decide between getting an Xbox One or a PS4. Oh, pee, why'd I say that?

Leonard: Forgive me for asking a stupid question, but why are you being stupid?

Sheldon: I'm not being stupid. I'm employing the work of Dutch researcher, Mirjam Tuk, who found that people with full bladders make better decisions.

Leonard: Why did I pee before I decided to move in here?

(S07E19)

Quality Flouting

Relation + Quantity Infringing

Manner Flouting

248) Scene: Sheldon is at the barber's shop.

Barber: Hey, Sheldon.

Sheldon: Hello. I'm here for my haircut with Mr. D'Onofrio.

Barber: I'm sorry, Uncle Tony's in the hospital. He's pretty sick.

Sheldon: Oh, dear, Mr. D'Onofrio's in the hospital. Why do these things always happen to me?

Barber: I can cut it for you.

Sheldon: You're not Mr. D'Onofrio. I get my hair cut by Mr. D'Onofrio. You believe this guy?

Leonard: Excuse us for a second. Sheldon, it's okay, he can do it. He's a barber.

Sheldon: He's not a barber, he's the nephew. He's an example of the kind of nepotism that runs rampant in the barbering industry. Besides, Mr. D'Onofrio knows exactly how I like my hair done because he has all my haircut records from my barber in Texas.

Leonard: What are you talking about?

Sheldon: When I first moved here I was nervous about finding a new barber, so my mother had all my haircut records sent here to Mr. D'Onofrio.

Leonard: There's no such thing as haircut records.

Sheldon: Yes, there are.

Leonard: Have you ever seen them?

Sheldon: No, but my mother assured me they were sent here, and I'll bet you dollars to doughnuts that this one doesn't have them. Uh, excuse me. Do you have access to my haircut records?

Barber: Your what?

Sheldon: To paraphrase T.S. Eliot, this is the way the world ends, not with a bang but with a nephew.

(S05E18)

Quantity Flouting

Quality + Relation + Manner Flouting

Quality Flouting

249) Scene: *The boy's apartment. Rajesh has turned the TV on.*

Sheldon: Oh look, Saturn 3 is on.

Raj: I don't want to watch Saturn 3. Deep Space Nine is better.

Sheldon: How is Deep Space Nine better than Saturn 3?

Raj: Simple subtraction will tell you it's six better.

Leonard: Compromise. Watch Babylon 5.

Sheldon: In what sense is that a compromise?

Leonard: Well, five is partway between three... Never mind.

Raj: I'll tell you what, how about we go rock-paper-scissors?

Sheldon: Ooh, I don't think so. No, anecdotal evidence suggests that in the game of rock-paper-scissors, players familiar with each other will tie 75 to 80% of the time due to the limited number of outcomes. I suggest rock-paper-scissors- lizard-Spock.

Raj: What?

Sheldon: It's very simple. Look, scissors cuts paper. Paper covers rock. Rock crushes lizard. Lizard poisons Spock. Spock smashes scissors. Scissors decapitates lizard. Lizard eats paper. Paper disproves Spock. Spock vaporizes rock. And as it always has, rock crushes scissors.

(S01E08)

Quality Violation

Quality + Manner Flouting

Quantity + Manner Infringing

Manner Infringing

250) Scene: *Penny is thinking about breaking up with Leonard. She told Amy, who told Sheldon. Sheldon had to promise not to tell Leonard.*

Leonard. There's something I need to tell you.

Leonard: Okay.

Sheldon: I can't tell you.

Leonard: Why?

Sheldon: I can't tell you why I can't tell you. So I guess there's two things I can't tell you.

Leonard: I wish there were more.

Sheldon: Good night. I'm sorry. This is really important.

Leonard: What is it?

Sheldon: I like The Transformers. Do you like The Transformers?

Leonard: Where exactly did your mother have you tested?

Sheldon: Leonard, the Transformers teach us that things are not always what they appear to be. You know, like, uh, a semi truck might be an alien robot, or, uh, someone in a romantic relationship, uh, might feel differently than they appear to. Or a conversation about The Transformers might actually be about someone in this room. I'm going to pause to let that sink in.

Leonard: Okay, I think I understand.

Sheldon: You do?

Leonard: The guy who seems like an emotionless robot is you, but your relationship with Amy is causing you to transform into a red-blooded man with sexual desires.

Sheldon: That is literally the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

(S06E02)

Quantity Opting out

Quantity + Manner Infringing

Quality Flouting

Relation Flouting

Manner Flouting