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Violations of the Cooperative Principle on a Reddit Forum Markéta Dubnová

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Zásady pro vypracování

Cílem bakalářské práce je prostudovat diskurz na sociální síti Reddit z pohledu Griceova kooperačního principu a konverzačních maxim. Studentka nejprve vymezí elektronický diskurz a představí jeho typické jazykové prostředky, se zaměřením na vlivy mluvené jazykové interakce. Dále na základě studia relevantní odborné literatury z oblasti pragmatiky představí Griceovu teorii konverzace, definuje kooperační princip, popíše konverzační maximy a různé způsoby jejich porušování, a vymezí koncept implikatury. Následně zanalyzuje příspěvky z vybraného Reddit fóra s cílem identifikovat jejich zamýšlený význam v daném situačním kontextu a interpretovat je z pohledu dodržování/porušování konverzačních maxim. Na závěr studentka objasní nejčastější způsoby porušování kooperačního principu v závislosti na kontextových a mimojazykových faktorech a zdůvodní převažující tendence s ohledem na zvolený elektronický diskurz, účastníky komunikace a téma jejich diskuse.

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Souhlasím s prezenčním zpřístupněním své práce v Univerzitní knihovně.

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ANNOTATION

The bachelor thesis deals with the topic of the Cooperative Principle on a Reddit Forum, specifically the non-observance of Maxims. The first part of the thesis introduces information regarding computer-mediated communication, Maxims of conversation, implicature, and the Reddit forum will be introduced. The practical part focuses on the analysis of selected comments from the discussions and tries to find the patterns of Maxim non-observance.

KEY WORDS

Computer-mediated communication, Cooperative Principle, Maxims of conversation, implicature

NÁZEV

Porušování kooperačního principu na fóru Reddit

ANOTACE

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá tématem kooperačního principu na fóru Reddit, konkrétně porušováním konverzačních maxim. První část práce představuje informace týkající se počítačově zprostředkované komunikace, konverzačních maxim, implikatury a fóra Reddit. Praktická část se zaměřuje na analýzu vybraných diskuzních komentářů a snaží se najít systém v porušování maxim.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA

Počítačově zprostředkovaná komunikace, kooperační princip, konverzační maximy, implikatura

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Introduction

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to examine the non-observance of conversational Maxims on the Reddit forum. With the rise of online platforms, studying communication patterns in computer-mediated environments has become increasingly important. This research focuses on analysing the comment sections of various 'subreddits' to identify specific tendencies in which the maxims are broken and discover any recurring patterns. The fact that Reddit is a global network provides valuable insights into the behaviour of various cultures, making it an ideal platform for this study.

The thesis is divided into theoretical and analytical parts. The theoretical part provides an overview of Computer-mediated Communication and Grice's theory of conversation. The first chapter further explores the distinctive features of spoken language in online discourse, focusing on the syntactic, lexical, and pragmatic aspects. In the second chapter, the focus shifts towards an in-depth description of the Cooperative Principle, Conversational Maxims, and the types of non-observance. This chapter also introduces the concept of Implicature, which is crucial in understanding the implicit meaning conveyed through conversations. The third chapter explains the basic information concerning the Reddit forum and the chosen Reddit subreddits that are analysed in the analytical part. By establishing this theoretical framework, the study aims to provide a solid basis for the subsequent analysis.

The analytical part of the thesis begins by presenting the chosen methodology and the corpus used for the study. The corpus consists of 130 examples of maxim non-observance, which are provided in Appendix 1, and the corresponding sources are listed in Appendix 2. This dataset allows for a detailed examination of instances where the conversational maxims are broken in the context of Reddit discussions.

The first part of the analysis focuses on conducting in-depth research of the selected comments from the corpus, aiming to decode their intended meaning within the situational context. This examination will shed light on the various ways in which participants deviate from conversational maxims and the underlying motives behind their communication choices. The second part is dedicated to the results of the analysis- the quantitative research results and the general tendencies of Reddit users in the context of the discussion topics.

1. Computer-Mediated Communication

Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) refers to all the communication mediated through or with the help of computers. As highlighted by Herring, "any discussion in CMC today must necessarily reference the Internet;" there would be virtually no communication without it (2002, 112). Although the Internet was first invented for security and research purposes, it is nowadays a tool many people could not imagine their everyday life without as it is crucial for daily communication and the majority of professions. (Thurlow, Lengel, and Tomic 2004, 15–28) According to Statista.com, as of January 2023, a staggering 5.16 billion people utilise the Internet, while 4.76 billion actively engage in social media platforms. It is also worth mentioning that phones, tablets, and other technological gadgets used for communication are included in this group with computers.

1.1. Typical Spoken-Language Features in CMC

While online discourse primarily comprises written language, it is important to acknowledge the influence of spoken language. This chapter delves into the distinctive features of spoken language within CMC, shedding light on how elements of speech manifest in online interactions.

Spoken and written language have a significant number of differences - the most apparent would be their physical form - while spoken language relies on the "phonic substance", written language uses the "graphic substance" (Crystal 1995, 291). The *spoken-language features in CMC* mentioned in this thesis are all connected to the medium of written language- no type of speech (e.g., video) is considered. Nevertheless, there is an overlap between speech and writing - in some cases, it is difficult to differentiate and determine to which category a specific genre belongs. Chatgroups, for example, have the form of a written language, but their *nature* is that of a spoken language. (White 2013, 253) The same goes for other types of CMC.

They are time-governed, expecting or demanding an immediate response; they are transient, in the sense that messages may be immediately deleted (as in e-mails) or be lost to attention as they scroll off the screen (as in chatgroups); and their utterances display much of the urgency and energetic force which is characteristic of face-to-face conversation. (Crystal 2006, 31-32)

Specific instances of *spoken-language features in CMC* are discussed in the following subchapters.

1.1.1. Syntactic Level

There are various syntactic features of speech frequent in CMC - the first being *ellipsis*, which is described as "the omission of elements which are precisely recoverable from the linguistic or situational context" (Biber et al. 1999, 156). Although *ellipsis* is common in speech, as it saves the speaker time and effort, it does not imply that we cannot find it in writing. The example: "NTA. But I'm wondering, is the drug you previously took from her also Xanax? If <u>so</u>, she can get a prescription filled herself. If <u>not</u>, that's very concerning" displays two cases of ellipsis (@¹springreturning, April 27, 2023). The first sentence would be the omitted information, substituted by 'so' and 'not'.

The next feature would be *sentence fragments*. Regularly found in spoken discourse and CMC, *sentence fragments* allow the summarisation of important information points. Despite frequently being considered ungrammatical, they are relatively common in conversation; the speakers share the same context, and they can consequently leave out plenty of information. (Biber et al. 1999, 224–225) Sentence fragments can have various functions - they can create a dramatic pause, achieve a more natural conversational tone, or for naturalness and economy, as in: "Absolutely unacceptable behaviour" (Schuster 2006, 80–81; @nomnoms0610, April 26, 2023). This sentence lacks a subject and verb, making it a *sentence fragment*.

Tag questions can be identified as another notable feature. They take the form of a statement with an added *tag*, composed of an auxiliary verb and a pronoun, which transforms it into an interrogative sentence. Their purpose is to elicit agreement or confirmation from the listener. The general consensus is that a negative tag is added to a positive statement, and a positive tag is added to a negative statement. For example, if someone sends a message: "You are going to be late," which can be transformed into a tag question by adding the negative tag "aren't you?" The resulting tag question, "You are going to be late, aren't you?" seeks affirmation or invites the addressee to confirm agreement. Additionally, the use of 'negative' adverbs (e.g., seldom, rarely, and never) can change the statement from positive to negative, which requires the use of a positive tag. (Perfect English Grammar 2023; English Club 2023)

¹ The examples containing the '@' symbol in the citations are taken from the Reddit forum.

1.1.2. Lexical Level

Comparably to the syntactic level, there can also be certain lexical features of speech implemented in CMC. Similarly with *ellipsis, acronyms* offer a more economical use of speakers' time. Although mostly seen on the Internet, they can be used during speech. (James and Jansen 2002, 441) The most frequently used acronyms in CMC, as well as in conversation, are: 'LOL' - Laughing Out Loud, 'OMG' - Oh My God, and 'ASAP' - As Soon As Possible (Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2023). The example: "Lol, I do this a lot, too," shows the tendency not to use capital letters for the whole acronym (@kazhena, April 27, 2023).

The next (less obvious) feature of spoken language in CMC would be *emoticons*. In CMC - text messages, emails, and social media postings - emoticons are a common way of portraying facial expressions visually. They are frequently used to fill in for the absence of nonverbal indicators in face-to-face interactions, such as tone of voice and body language. Later on, they were replaced by *emojis* - introduced in 1999, they dramatically increased in use, especially on social media. Some *emojis* are ambiguous and can lead to an unanticipated reaction, while others may elicit uncertain or conflicting reactions. (Crystal 2021) The example: "yes Japan's public transport seems like a dream in that regard - in Australia (well Melbourne at least) it's atrocious □" shows that comparably to speech and facial expressions, emojis can have various different meanings (@Taylor140598, May 2, 2023). Additionally, they also evolve over time. The crying emoji "may convey inconsolable grief but also other intense feelings, such as uncontrollable laughter, pride or overwhelming joy" (Emojipedia 2023).

Another feature of spoken language heavily used in CMC is *slang*. Although more common in speech ", all synchronous chatgroups rely heavily upon such processes, presumably as a mechanism of affirming group identity" (Crystal 2006, 171). It can take on many different forms, depending on the locality, subculture, and age group - young people can also use slang to establish their uniqueness and independence by creating their own register. It is characterised by its informal and often unconventional nature. It frequently involves creating new words or altering existing ones, often borrowing from other languages, abbreviating terms, or employing metaphorical and figurative language. Slang is often temporary, with certain expressions gaining popularity and fading away relatively quickly as new ones emerge to take their place. Cultural trends, technological advancements, and the need for novelty in language drive this constant evolution. (Britannica 2023; Coleman 2012, 11–15) The rise of technology and social media platforms has greatly influenced the spread and adoption of slang. Online communities

and digital communication have accelerated the spreading of new slang terms and expressions, often crossing geographic and cultural boundaries. (Coleman 2012, 266–267) Memes, viral videos, and hashtags play a significant role in popularising slang, as they can quickly reach millions of people and become part of mainstream culture almost overnight. In the case of Reddit, each subreddit (to be explained later) uses its own slang (e.g., *breeder*, which refers to parents).

1.1.3. Pragmatic Devices

As expected, pragmatic devices are present in speech and writing, but some are more common in conversation - *deixis*, pragmatic *markers*, and *phatic expressions*.

Deixis, derived from the Greek word meaning 'pointing,' is a linguistic phenomenon that is commonly observed in spoken communication. It arises due to the speaker's need to analyse the surrounding situational context, which can include a specific space, time, or person (Levinson 1983, 54). Deictic expressions, which are used to convey deixis, typically involve demonstratives such as "this," first- and second-person pronouns like "you," and adverbs of time and space such as "now" and "there" (Huang 2014, 169). Interestingly, even in CMC, which naturally lacks face-to-face interaction (Crystal 2006, 254). For instance, if an individual sends a message stating, "I am here," only the address aware of the linguistic and situational context would be able to comprehend the intended meaning of "here." In this scenario, "here" functions as a spatial deixis (Sindoni 2013, 24). The use of deictic expressions in CMC highlights the continued importance of contextual cues in communication, even in text-based interactions. Despite the absence of physical proximity, individuals rely on shared knowledge, previous interactions, and situational awareness to decode and interpret deictic references accurately.

Pragmatic markers, also called *pragmatic particles*, are words with virtually no power to change the real meaning of a sentence. However, they play a crucial role in organising and structuring a sentence, as well as conveying the speakers' attitudes. These markers are usually found in face-to-face interactions. They include but are not limited to: *like*, *I guess*, *you know*, and *well*. (Ostman 1982, 147–154) An example can be seen in this sentence: "Well yeah, it is disgusting" (@Key-Cardiologist5882, April 27, 2023).

Phatic expressions are another feature of speech that is present in CMC. The category includes, for example, the following greeting expression: "Hello, how are you?" By incorporating phatic expressions, CMC departs from purely formal communication and adopts a more casual tone. This departure is crucial in balancing the level of formality and informality, ensuring that conversations do not become overly stiff or impersonal. Without phatic expressions, interactions in CMC would lack the warmth and social cohesion that these linguistic elements provide. Nevertheless, if used too much, the communication might become "unfocused." (Zimmerman 2011, 53)

1.2. Mutual Understanding

CMC has emerged as a vital tool for intercultural communication in today's interconnected world. Despite the fact that "most Internet interactions are not global in character," it is essential to recognise that online posts have the potential to reach individuals worldwide (Crystal 2006, 63). While using technology to communicate, particular difficulties might arise that may negatively influence understanding. As outlined by Hofstede and Pedersen, the difficulties encountered when communicating with individuals from different cultures are *language differences*, *non-verbal communication*, *stereotypes*, or *stress* (2002, 17–19). Particularly within the context of CMC, non-verbal communication becomes even more complex to navigate. Fortunately, participants in CMC can utilise emojis, as highlighted in section 1.1.2, to convey facial reactions that would otherwise be impossible.

Additionally, while technology can make it available for people of different cultures to communicate, it can also result in misunderstandings and instances of miscommunication because of variations in *language usage*, *cultural norms*, and *communication preferences*. Each culture has its own set of values, beliefs, and behavioural norms that shape communication patterns. These norms may affect the appropriate level of formality, directness, or politeness in interactions. Failing to understand or adhere to these cultural norms can lead to unintended offence or confusion. Communication preferences can also differ across cultures. Some cultures prioritise direct and explicit communication, while others may rely more on indirect and implicit messages. (Bowe, Martin, and Manns 2014, 1-5)

The Common Ground theory provides insights into the process of acquiring and exchanging the shared knowledge and information mentioned earlier. *Grounding*, as a central aspect of the theory, involves active efforts from participants to ensure that their communication is comprehended and shared by the other person. Unfortunately, grounding has different forms depending on the "communication medium and the communication task", which might create complications for some. Face-to-face conversation and CMC present distinct challenges and opportunities for establishing common ground. While face-to-face communication allows for immediate feedback, real-time non-verbal cues, and the ability to clarify misunderstandings easily, it does not necessarily mean that grounding is easier in this context. Despite lacking some features of face-to-face interaction, CMC offers unique advantages such as reviewability - messages in CMC can be revisited, allowing participants to refer back to previous exchanges and clarify their understanding. (Donelan, Kear, and Ramage 2010, 166–170)

1.3. Trolling

Trolling, a common practice in online groups, is the deliberate provocation, harassment, or disruption of others by controversial and insulting remarks or acts (Buckels, Trapnell, and Paulhus 2014, 97). Different objectives, such as entertainment, attention-seeking, and the assertion of dominance or authority, can lead to trolling behaviour. Some people troll just for the sake of upsetting and confusing others (Connolly 2022, 405–407).

To identify trolls or trolling behaviour online, there are some common indicators to look out for. Trolls often target your preferences or opinions, launch personal attacks, or criticise the topic of discussion. They thrive on provoking emotional responses and persist in their disruptive behaviour until they succeed. Trolls are also known for making exaggerated and absurd claims to prompt strong reactions, even if they do not genuinely believe them. Recognising these signs can help you identify and effectively deal with trolls in online discussions. On well-moderated forums, administrators are responsible for detecting trolling and taking appropriate action. They should promptly ban the troll or remove their offensive comments based on their severity. (GCF Global 2023)

2. The Cooperative Principle and Maxims of Conversation

This chapter defines the Cooperative Principle and the Maxims of Conversation

2.1. The Cooperative Principle

The Cooperative Principle (CP), first introduced by Paul Grice, is defined as follows "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged" (1989, 26). The simplified meaning of this sentence would be that we should act in such a manner that helps the listener to understand the meaning behind our utterance- the Implicature. One of the main goals of CP is to avoid miscommunication in a conversation (Davies 2007, 2311).

2.2. The Maxims of Conversation

This chapter focuses on the definition of *conversational maxims* and, later, their *non-observance*, which is crucial in relation to the *implicature*.

The maxims of conversation present a guide that conversation participants should follow to be understood. Every participant enters a conversation with the assumption that their fellow participant is aware of these rules and is set to obey them. However, Levinson considers them a general strategy rather than rules (2000, 35). While Grice (1989) distinguishes four types of maxims, some authors, like Martinich (1980) and Horn (1984), suggest that adding or morphing some maxims together would be beneficial for their clearer understanding.

The first maxim is the *maxim of quantity*, which relates to the quantity of information to be provided. Grice makes two points about this maxim:

- 1. Make your contribution as informative as is required (from the current purpose of the exchange) QN1
- 2. Do not make your contribution more informative than required QN2

(Grice 1989, 26)

For example, when an addressee is asked, "How do I find the nearest train station?" the expected answer would contain only the information necessary for the speaker to understand how to find the nearest train station, nothing more, nothing less.

[1] A: "How do I find the nearest train station?"

B: "You will go straight this way and turn right at the intersection. From there, you will see the train station."

Concerning *quantity*, Martinich suggests that QN1 and QN2 could be combined to form one *supermaxim* - "Contribute as much as, but not more than, is required (for the conversation). (1980, 218). On the contrary, Horn creates two categories - Q Principle and R Principle. The former includes QN1 and the latter QN2, relation, and the whole notion of manner (Horn 1984, 13–14).

The second maxim is the *maxim of quality*. Grice makes one main point and two subpoints concerning this maxim.

"Try to make your contribution one that is true" - and two more specific maxims:

- 1. Do not say what you believe to be false. QL1
- 2. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence. QL2

(Grice 1989, 27)

[2] A: What do you think about Dr Moore?

B: As far as I know, he seems like a good doctor.

In [2], speaker B uses the phrase "as far as I know" to follow the maxim of quality. They do not have adequate evidence that the doctor is "good". The phrase helps them to avoid saying a piece of information that could be false.

Even though the *maxim of quality* is the least controversial, it faced some criticism. While Horn (1984) states that it is the only maxim that does not need any alteration, Martinich believes that its definition should be altered. His opinion is that the maxims QL1 and QL2 are too vague, and he tries to combine them into one - "Be authentic. That is, do not knowingly participate in a speech act for which the conditions for its successful and non-defective performance are not satisfied." (Martinich 1980, 219–220)

On account of the third maxim - the *maxim of relation*, Grice (1989, 27) only mentions one rule, "Be relevant". For example, if speaker A is to ask a question, speaker B's proper utterance would be an answer to this question, as seen in (1).

The problem arises while distinguishing what is and what is not relevant. The solution might be the *Relevance Theory*, in which Sperber and Wilson (1986) criticise Grice for the lack of information given in connection with *relation* and the Cooperative Principle as a whole. According to them, the most important aspect of *relevance* is context; they distinguish three instances in which an utterance might be contextually irrelevant:

- a) the new assumption does not connect with the context
 - [3] A: *learning math*
 - B: "The real name of Lady Gaga is Stefani Germanotta."
- b) the assumption is already present in the context.
 - [4] B: "You are learning math."
- c) the assumption is inconsistent with the context.
 - [5] B: "You are learning English."

The assumption has to have some contextual effect in order to be relevant. (Sperber and Wilson 1986, 121–122)

The last maxim is the *maxim of manner*, which relates to *how* an utterance is said (Grice 1989, 27). Grice makes one central point -" Be perspicuous" - and four sub-points:

- 1. Avoid obscurity of expression.
- 2. Avoid ambiguity.
- 3. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).
- 4. Be orderly. see [6]

(Grice 1989, 27)

[6] Observing maxim: I got up from the bed and closed the door.

Non-observance: I closed the door and got up from the bed.

In [6], the act of *closing the door* should logically follow the act of *getting up from the bed* since a person usually has to stand in front of the door in order to close it.

For the purpose of this paper, each instance in connection with the maxims will refer to Grice's descriptions.

2.3. Non-observance of Maxims

This chapter focuses on the explanation of the *non-observance of maxims*. This, oftentimes intentional, deviation from the CP can be divided into four categories- *flouting*, *violating*, *infringing*, *and opting out* (Thomas 1995, 72).

2.3.1. Flouting of Maxims

Flouting is a deliberate act of non-literal communication initiated by the speaker and does not attempt to mislead the hearer. While *flouting the maxims*, the hearer must be aware of the speaker's intentions to understand possible *conversational implicatures*. (Cruse 2004, 372)

[7] A: Are you hungry?

B: I would eat a horse right now!

In [7], using hyperbole, speaker B *flouts quality* and implies that he is "starving". Huang mentions that *figures of speech* (figurative language) such as *metaphor*, *litotes*, and *hyperbole* are all connected with the *flouting of quality* since they do not express the literal truth (2014, 36). Therefore *sarcasm*, *idioms*, *proverbs*, and others alike are also included in this category.

- [8] A: Where are you going? [Mother asking her daughter on a Saturday evening.]B: Out.
- [9] A: Are you coming with us?

B: The weather seems to be getting worse, but I have read that it should be sunny the whole weekend. My mum wants me to stay home, but I don't have to listen. Having a free weekend would also be nice, but I have to write the essay.

In [8], the daughter (speaker B) *flouts quantity*; in this case, she gives too little information, implying she does not want to share her plans with her mother. Other cases might include too much information or both at the same time, like in [9]. Speaker B simultaneously gives too much and too little information; the implicature is that he is not decided yet. Huang points out that it is up to the hearer to interpret the seemingly uninformative utterances as informative and infer the implicature (2014, 36).

[10] A: Do you think Anna likes me?

B: Have you seen the new Marvel movie?

In [10], speaker B deliberately refuses to give a clear answer to speaker A and instead changes the topic-*flouting relation*. Thomas mentions that a change of topic, as a response, is a frequent occurrence (1995, 70). The initial assumption might be that speaker B did not hear speaker A. However, if both speakers adhere to the Cooperative Principle, the answer is "highly relevant at some non-superficial level" (Huang 2014, 36). A possible interpretation of this utterance would be that speaker B does not want to hurt speaker A's feelings by telling the truth- Anna does not like speaker A.

[11] A: The dog hasn't been out yet.B: I will take him for a W-A-L-K.

In [11], speaker B resorts to spelling a part of the utterance- the marked expression indicates a non-stereotypical situation (Levinson 2000, 136). By doing so, he *flouts manner* and implies that the dog should not hear the word 'walk' to keep him calm.

2.3.2. Violating of Maxims

According to Grice, a person violates the maxims with the objective of misleading someone or causing misunderstandings - lying (1989, 30). As mentioned in 2.3.1., while flouting the maxims, a speaker creates an implicature; on the contrary, violating maxims does not generate any. In some interactions, such as trials, parliamentary speeches, and arguments, the maxim violation could be seen as a norm (Thomas 1995, 74).

[12] A: Do you know where is your brother? [Mother looking for her son after she got a call from the school.]

B: Yeah, he is in his room. [His brother is just leaving the house.]

While *violating quality* in [12], speaker B lied to his mother in order to mislead her into thinking his brother was still inside the house.

[13] A: Do you know what time it is?

B: Yes, I do.

In [13], speaker B *violates quantity* by not giving enough information. Although he does not gain anything from this behaviour, he still chooses to be non-cooperative. From a linguistic standpoint, speaker B's answer is logical to a YES/NO question, but speaker A's question implies that the proper answer to the question is the time of the day.

The remaining two maxims - *relation* and *manner* - are difficult to illustrate in examples, as Mooney states:

In the case of relation, it is difficult to see how this maxim can be itself successfully violated (undetected). It is easily violated in a detectable way and likewise may result in a successful violation of quality. What the speaker implicates through a violation of relation may itself be false. In the case of manner too, it is difficult to see that it can be successfully violated. Should a speaker be ambiguous, for example, this would appear to be a case of a clash, infringement or a flout. (Mooney 2003, 914-915)

2.3.3. Infringing of Maxims

Infringement occurs when a speaker fails to observe a maxim due to their imperfect knowledge of a certain language; it is most common with language learners and children. The speaker does not intend to create an implicature, nor do they try to mislead anyone. (Thomas 1995, 74) Mooney points out that it could only have social implications (2004, 910).

[14] A: Do you want the red cup or the blue one? [Mom asking her small son.]B: Yes.

In [14], speaker B (child) did not understand that he was supposed to choose between the two cups. His cognitive and language abilities influence his response. In this case, the mother understood that her son did not try to generate an implicature and/or mislead her.

2.3.4. Opting out Maxims

Opting out refers to the refusal to answer, often used for legal, ethical, or safety reasons. Speakers usually refrain from answering in order not to create any false implicatures. (Thomas

1995, 74) Grice mentions that the speaker "may say, indicate, or allow it to become plain that he is unwilling to cooperate in the way the maxim requires." (1980, 30)

[15] A: Were you aware of his affair? [A paparazzi asking a famous actor.]B: No comment.

In [15], speaker B refuses to answer the given question in order not to create any unwelcome implicatures - he is aware and does not want the public to know - and save face.

2.4. Implicature

As mentioned in 2.1., Implicature can be described as the meaning behind our words. Grice (1989) distinguishes between *conventional implicature* and *conversational implicature*, which is further divided into *generalised conversational implicature* (GCI) and *particularised conversational implicature* (PCI).

Although Grice (1989) mentions the *conventional implicature*, it remains widely undiscussed and criticised. For example, Bach criticises the whole notion of *conventional implicature* and goes as far as calling it 'illusory'. He argues that the examples other authors give supposedly containing *conventional implicatures* are examples of something else. (1999, 365) Therefore, this paper will not address any specific information about this implicature.

2.4.1. Conversational Implicature

Levinson mentions that conversational implicature is not coded in the utterances but is inferred from our assumption about a conversation (2000, 14). Therefore, a knowledge of the CP and the *Maxims of conversation* is necessary to understand these implicatures. It could also be said that "conversational implicature is part of what a speaker means, though not part of what a sentence means" (Huang 2014, 32).

There are two types of *conversational implicature- generalised and particularised*. The GCI indicates that the hearer does not need any special knowledge about the context to understand it. It relies on the meanings of words and their forms that carry certain implicatures in a typical

setting. Grice admits that GCI is fairly similar to conventional implicature, and therefore it might be challenging to find sufficient examples. (1989, 37)

[16] A: I saw Jonh walking a dog yesterday.

The implicature arising from the use of the indefinite article in [16] might be that the dog does not belong to John; there is no need for additional context.

On the contrary, the PCI needs a particular context for the hearer to understand an utterance since the speakers might seemingly not follow the *conversational maxims* (Yule 1996, 42-43).

[17] A: It's 1:05. Do you want to go to the restaurant for lunch?B: Josh doesn't work today.

In [17], there would not be any conversational implicature under consideration without the specific context. (Huang 2014, 38). The answer speaker B gives to speaker A *flouts the maxim of relation* and only makes sense if the hearer knows that Josh works in the speakers' favourite restaurant and gives them free food after 1 pm. Therefore, speaker B implies they do not want to go to the restaurant.

3. Reddit Forum

Prior to conducting the analysis, it is necessary to characterise the Reddit forum comprehensively. Reddit is a known social media platform structured in the form of discussion boards designed to facilitate diverse and engaging interactions among its user base. The main page, commonly referred to as the home page, presents a curated selection of trending posts spanning a wide array of subjects, each belonging to distinct thematic communities known as 'subreddits'. These subreddits are established based on specific topics, thus allowing users to navigate and participate in discussions that align with their areas of interest.

The operational framework of Reddit is intuitively straightforward. Individuals seeking to share their questions or opinions select a relevant subreddit based on the desired focus of their content and subsequently submit their posts. However, it is worth noting that specific subreddits may create requirements to be able to contribute content, for example, the accumulation of 'karma points'. These points can be acquired through active participation, such as engaging in discussions by commenting on other users' posts or by submitting content to subreddits with less strict guidelines. Alternatively, users can accumulate karma points by receiving upvotes from fellow community members. The upvoting and downvoting system serves as a rating mechanism, enabling the platform to detect the quality and relevance of posts, therefore determining their visibility on the front page and prioritising comments within discussions.

For the purpose of this analysis, several specific subreddits have been selected, each with its unique nature and focus. It is essential to provide a comprehensive description of these subreddits to understand their respective contexts and user dynamics better.

Firstly, **r/AmItheAsshole** serves as a dedicated space where individuals seek judgment and evaluation of their actions. The original posters (OPs) present their specific situations and provide an account of why they believe they may be at fault. Other users then contribute their verdicts, often accompanied by informative explanations and advice for the OP. Notably, automated bots play a role in analysing the data and assigning distinct labels to each post, such as NTA (Not the A-hole), YTA (You're the A-hole), YWBTA (You Would Be the A-hole), YWNBTA (You Would Not Be the A-hole), ESH (Everyone Sucks Here), NAH (No A-holes Here), or INFO (not enough information).

Moving on to **r/unpopularopinion**, this subreddit serves as a platform for individuals to share their unpopular viewpoints. Interestingly, this community differs from the typical voting system employed by other subreddits, as OPs aim to make the other users disagree and consequently receive upvotes. In contrast to seeking agreement with their opinions, the primary objective here is to spark discourse around controversial or unconventional ideas.

Next, **r/childfree** is a subreddit dedicated to child-free people (people who do not wish to have children based on their emotional and physical state or simply on the basis of not wanting to care for another human being). Furthermore, this community may also provide a space for parents who wish to express regret or share their experiences regarding their decision to have children.

Similarly, **r**/**ADHD** serves as a subreddit specifically designed for individuals diagnosed with ADHD or those suspecting they may have the condition. This community allows for the exchange of experiences, insights, coping mechanisms, and support among its members. It serves as a valuable resource for individuals seeking information, validation, and connections with others facing similar challenges related to ADHD.

Lastly, **r/atheism** serves as an online forum dedicated to atheists or individuals questioning their belief systems. This subreddit offers a platform for discussions surrounding atheism, secularism, and the exploration of diverse philosophical perspectives. Members engage in conversations ranging from critiques of religious beliefs to personal experiences of religious deconversion.

4. Analysis

This thesis aims to examine the instances of *non-observance of conversational maxims* in selected comments from five different subreddits- r/AmItheAsshole, r/unpopularopinion, r/childfree, r/ADHD, and r/atheism and to comment on their meaning. Since the users generally want to create implicatures, the analysis predominately focuses on the *flouting of maxims*; *infringing* and *violation* will be discussed only briefly; *opting out* was not identified in any of the comments in the corpus.

A corpus had to be created for the analysis- consisting of 130 examples (120 comments and ten deleted posts) selected by reading through discussion threads and identifying various kinds of *non-observance*. Two categories have been created- *Flouting* and *Other*, which includes instances of *infringing* and *violation* detected by Reddit administrators (*admins*). The category of *flouting* is further divided into five sub-categories - *Quality Flouting*, *Quantity Flouting*, *Relation Flouting*, *Manner Flouting*, and *Combination*, which includes more than one type of *flouting*. The whole corpus can be found in the Appendix (*App*.).

In 4.1, a detailed commentary on selected comments concerning flouting from the corpus follows. It is necessary to highlight that interpretation on the pragmatic level is highly subjective and context dependent. Subchapter 4.2. focuses on other instances of *non-observance - infringing* and *violation* - and how the Reddit administrators (*admins*) handle them.

4.1. Flouting

In the following two subchapters, the primary objective is to analyse selected comments from the view of the cooperative principle. While comments that follow maxims tend to be serious and helpful to the OP (e.g., OP: *Is your handwriting messy?*; user²: *Absolutely. Sometimes it's so bad that even I can't read it*), the overall tendency of comments that use flouting is to create an implicature with a humorous undertone (@xBigDamHerox, February 6, 2023). The users try to generate content that would grant them a Reddit upvote- a sign that other users share their opinion- and being funny is one of the ways to achieve it.

² User stands for the person reacting to OP's post.

Quality Flouting

As mentioned in 2.3.1., the *flouting of quality* is tightly connected with figurative language - *metaphor*, *irony*, *sarcasm*, *etc*. The following examples show the tendency to use *idioms*, *sarcasm*, *hyperbole*, *proverbs*, and *metaphor* to create implicatures.

1) * AITA for telling my sister's they are getting nothing out of me for our mother's care?

NTA. People hate it when the chickens roost at home.

The comment in (1) showcases the utilisation of idioms to create an implicature, which adds depth and layers to the communication. It is important to note that understanding the implicature depends on the reader's knowledge of the idiom- if the reader is not familiar with the expression, the intended implicature might be misunderstood. The OP raised a question regarding whether she was at fault for refusing to care for her mother. This decision stemmed from the mother's previous lack of sufficient care for the OP. Employing the idiom in the comment implies that the consequences of the mother's past actions have caught up with her. The user's implicature could suggest that the daughter acted appropriately and that her mother should face the repercussions of her previous behaviour. For a similar use of idioms, see App. 1–4.

2) * I think Airbnb's are flat out weird. 3

I agree... let's stay at some random stranger's home. Sounds like a great idea.

In (2), the comment refers to the OP's opinion regarding Airbnb accommodations, where they express their distaste for it. The user initially appears to agree with the OP's viewpoint but subsequently contradicts it, which could be indicative of sarcasm. Sarcasm, as a form of nonliteral language, often involves saying the opposite of what is meant for humorous or ironic effect. The implicature derived from this comment might suggest that the user shares a similar perspective as the OP and does not consider Airbnb accommodations to be a favourable choice. By employing sarcasm, the user implies their agreement with the negative sentiment towards Airbnb, albeit in a humorous or ironic manner. A similar use of sarcasm can be seen in the App. 5–29.

3) * Is your handwriting messy?

³ An asterisk presents the title of the discussion.

Yes. The invention of the keyboard saved my life \Box *.*

In (3), the comment demonstrates the use of hyperbole, which involves deliberate exaggeration. Although the user states that the invention of the keyboard "saved their life," it is clear that they are not speaking literally but rather using hyperbole to express the significant positive impact it has had on their life. The hyperbolic statement suggests that the invention has greatly benefited them because they struggle with messy handwriting.

The emoji used in connection with the utterance can provide further insight into the user's intention. It is likely that the user uses the emoji to convey a sense of self-consciousness or embarrassment about their handwriting, attempting to add a light-hearted or humorous tone to their comment. The combination of hyperbole and the emoji creates a playful effect and signals that the user is making a joke about their handwriting while still acknowledging the genuine help provided by the invention of the keyboard. The whole statement could initially seem irrelevant; however, the implicature answers the OP's question. The user also answers the question by saying 'Yes'. For a similar use of hyperbole, see App. 30–33.

4) * Why do people with kids get triggered/offended at the idea of child-free adults?

Misery wants, nay DEMANDS, company.

The flouting in (4) uses the modified proverb 'misery loves company'. This proverb implies that parents might be unhappy, and they want other people to feel the same way. A person not familiar with this proverb might have trouble decoding this implicature. The implicature drawn from this comment could also indicate that the user believes that having children would lead to misery or unhappiness for themselves. It implies a negative perception of parenthood and signals that they do not desire to experience the same level of misery associated with having children. A similar use of proverbs can be seen in the App. 34–36.

5) * How do you decide which of your hobbies to put time into? [OP has ADHD.]

My hobbies and interests decide for me, unfortunately. I am nothing but a leaf in the wind.

In a comment (5), the user uses a *metaphor* to convey their experience with their decisionmaking process. They are not saying they are a literal leaf in the wind, but if a leaf gets caught in the wind, the wind is going to have all the control. In this metaphorical representation, the leaf symbolises the user, unable to decide for themselves due to their ADHD. At the same time, the wind represents their hobbies, or rather hyper-fixations, that control their decisions. The implicature derived from the comment suggests that the user feels powerless or unable to decide for themselves due to the overwhelming influence of their hobbies.

Quantity Flouting

6) * AITA For not wanting to go ballroom dancing with my girlfriend on 'my' birthday?

NTA. I can't believe we even have to explain this.

7) * Why religions gives so much importance to virginity?

Control (43)

As mentioned in section 2.3.1, when flouting the quantity maxim, a person can provide either too much or too little information in their response; in the case of (6) and (7), the user does not give enough information in their response. However, a person can still infer an implicature even from a single word, as in (7). The intended implicature in (7) might be that religious people like to control women or that after losing her virginity, the woman might end up being controlled by her spouse. In (6), the user may be implying that the answer to their question is so obvious that it is not worth a discussion. For similar flouts of quality, see App. 38–44.

Flouting only quantity by giving too much information is not very common on the Reddit forum since the consensus is to give a complex answer to prevent misunderstanding. Only one case was identified. There were other cases that are discussed in the *Combination*.

 * "You'd Look Prettier If You Tanned" Is Just Bad As Saying "You'd Look Prettier If You Got Paler" Do only fat people make those comments? What would he say if a super fit dude told you that vitamin D is important and he recommends to maintain healthy blood levels, aim to get 10-30 minutes of midday sunlight several times per week.

In (8), the OP expresses their frustration with people urging them to tan more despite their personal choice to avoid excessive sun exposure. The OP perceives these comments as a form of body-shaming, as they prioritise their skin health over obtaining a tan. The user who responds to the OP's complaint goes on to provide an abundance of information regarding vitamin D and the health benefits of sunlight. The implicature inferred from this response might suggest that the user finds the OP's statement or perspective on avoiding the sun and prioritising skin health as ridiculous.

Relation Flouting

Relation flouting can be found in the App. 45–96.

9) * More or Less American

Is a Native American who doesn't speak English less American?

In (9), OP is asking whether he is 'American enough' while being bilingual. He does not feel like he belongs to the American culture. The user does not answer OP's question directly; he instead asks another question - making the reaction *irrelevant*. In this case, the user compares the OP's situation to that of Native Americans who speak both English and their native language, highlighting their bilingualism. This comparison presents the implicature that OP is 'American enough,' since people typically consider bilingual citizens American as long as they live in the US or identify as Americans.

10) * My estranged mother said that my bisalp closed the last chance we had at reconnecting

Oh no... but anyway have you seen the new Wednesday Addams show?

Another case of using a question as an answer can be seen in (10). The OP shares a personal experience where their mother stated that the OP's decision to undergo sterilisation had closed the door for any future reconnection between them. The user's response, however, takes an unrelated direction by asking a completely irrelevant question. This change in topic can imply that the user believes the OP should not concern themselves with the incident mentioned or invest energy into reconciling with their mother. The user's choice to shift the focus away from

the OP's situation suggests that the user perceives the incident as something the OP should disregard or move past. This use of a question as an answer, which changes the topic and introduces irrelevance to the conversation, aligns with the concept of relation flouting discussed in section 2.1.3.

11) * It's that time of year

Welp. I have been playing too much D&D.

12) * Mental health is a good excuse for shitty behavior

I found the Kanye fan.

In some instances, such as comments (11) and (12), a more specific context is required to understand the conveyed implicatures fully. This context may be evident only to a specific group of individuals, while others may find it irrelevant or confusing.

In (11), the OP expresses their complaint about "elves on the shelves," which refers to a child's toy. However, the user's response brings up the game Dungeons and Dragons (D&D), which includes elves as a concept. This comment may appear entirely irrelevant to individuals who are not familiar with D&D. On the other hand, those knowledgeable about the game might perceive the implicature being made - the user was under the impression that the OP was talking about D&D and that the user forgot about the existence of elves on the shelves.

In (12), the OP shares their opinion that mental health can sometimes excuse 'shitty' behaviour. The comment that OP is a Kanye West fan is entirely irrelevant to the original post. Nevertheless, people aware of the history and background of the singer will probably be able to identify the implication - the user is possibly implying that Kanye West has mental health issues since he behaves questionably.

Manner Flouting

13) * Why is it so hard to be a normal functioning student? [OP has ADHD.]

We are calcium jars of neuron jelly riding a mech covered in meat that only sometimes does what we want it to, surrounded by many of the same. Go easy on yourself :)

In a comment (13), the original poster (OP) poses a question about why it is difficult to function normally as a student with ADHD. The user's response is somewhat cryptic and does not convey their intended meaning clearly. However, based on interpretation, the phrase "calcium jars of neuron jelly" likely refers to brains inside skulls. The user's statement includes the clause "surrounded by many of the same," which can give rise to an implicature that all students face challenges and struggles, implying that a struggling student is, in fact, a "normal" student. This implicature suggests that difficulties and obstacles are a standard part of the student experience, regardless of neurodiversity. Additionally, the overall implicature from the user's response may convey the idea that there is no simple or definitive answer to how brains function, suggesting that one should not take things too seriously.

14) * Bubble (boba) tea is a waste of perfectly good milk, tea and tapioca.

Me : <holds up cross towards you while incanting an exorcism>

Another way how to *flout manner* can be seen in (14). The user is describing an action as a reaction to OP's statement; it might not be easily understood. The user is probably implying that OP's opinion is comparable to being the Devil - the user might not understand how someone cannot like the drink 'Bubble (boba) tea.' Similar flouts of manner can be seen in the App. 103 and 104.

15) * Haikus are fucking stupid and sound bad.

This guy hates haikus I think he's overreacting

They don't bother me

An intriguing example of *manner* flouting was observed in (15), where the user cleverly capitalised on the OP's expressed dislike for haikus and their belief that haikus sound unpleasant and lack coherence. The user responded by crafting their comment in the form of a haiku, thereby flouting manner. This act of flouting manner resulted in an almost ironic comment, as it defied the OP's negative perception of haikus while simultaneously showcasing the

meaningful and entertaining nature of this poetic form. Additionally, the user's response could be interpreted as gently poking fun at the OP's closed-mindedness or resistance to appreciating haikus. Through this creative and playful use of language, the user sought to challenge the OP's preconceptions and demonstrate that haikus can indeed hold significance and offer enjoyment.

Combination

It is relatively common that one utterance breaks more than one Maxim (e.g.one utterance can be simultaneously categorised as *quantity flouting* and *quality flouting*).

- 16)* The most beautiful thing a woman can do is be a wife and mother
 - Barf.

In (16), two Maxims are being flouted - manner and quantity. The OP expresses their complaint about a tweet stating, "The most beautiful thing a woman can do is be a wife and mother." The user's response consists of a single interjection, "Barf," which simultaneously flouts the quantity maxim by providing minimal information and the manner maxim by using an obscure expression. By using the interjection "Barf," the user conveys their strong negative reaction to the tweet. The implicature created is that the user finds the tweet disgusting. The brevity of their response, flouting the quantity maxim, implies that the sentiment expressed is self-evident and does not require further elaboration. The user assumes that others would share their disdain for the tweet. For similar combinations, see App. 105–108.

17) * Why do people pray for other people to get pregnant?

BeCaUSe ThaTs whaT yOuR sUpPosEd To dO

The combination of *manner* and *quality* flouting can be seen in (17). As mentioned in 2.1.3., the use of non-stereotypical spelling (the alternating upper- and lower-case letters) can be categorised as manner flouting since the user's intention might be to signal that they mean the opposite of the utterance. Additionally, the user also flouts quality by using sarcasm. In this instance, the manner and quality flouting are used together since it could be impossible for some people to understand the sarcasm without the alternating letters. The combination of manner and quality flouting in this comment showcases how these two types of flouting can work together to enhance the intended implicature - the unconventional spelling serves as a tool to

convey sarcasm, making the sarcastic tone more evident and aiding in the understanding of the intended meaning. The implicature inferred from the utterance might be that the user thinks that not all people have to be parents.

18) *Anyone say "what" to a person right after they say something, and while they're in the middle of repeating it you actually did hear what they said, it just took you a second to comprehend and piece it together because shoot that's just how your brain is?

What?

In (18), the user *flouts relation* and *quantity* simultaneously - the reaction is a question; therefore, it is not relevant, and it only consists of one word, which means there is not enough information. It is possible that the user tried to use the question 'what?' since they wanted to create a humorous answer. The joke works just in the context of the question - if the user commented the same utterance on a different discussion, it would not create the same *implicature*. In this case, the *implicature* might be that the user does experience the mentioned problem.

19)* The never ending competition between parents on "who's more tired"

I cut myself once with a kitchen knife. It hurt. Then I cut myself three more times so that I'd win some sort of one-upmanship in casual conversation. I guess I'm an idiot.

In (19), the OP talks about a mother of four children complaining about how tired she is compared to a chronically ill person. In this instance, the user flouts *relation* and *quality*. The answer is seemingly irrelevant to the original post; however, the user compares harming oneself voluntarily and complaining to having children and complaining. At the same time, their remark is sarcastic, making fun of the mother. The implicature derived from this comment might be that the user perceives the mother's complaints as illogical, potentially due to the user's belief that having children is a voluntary choice compared to the chronic illness mentioned in the original post.

20) * How do you fricking read a paper book with ADHD?

you don't

The last combination of flouting in (20) combines quality and quantity. The user does not give helpful information to the OP; they instead resort to giving as little information as possible and simultaneously using sarcasm to create a humorous undertone. It is important to note that the implicature in this comment may be misunderstood by individuals unfamiliar with the symptoms and signs of ADHD. The user's statement about not reading paper books is not meant to be taken literally; rather, it implies that reading them can be challenging for someone with an ADHD diagnosis.

4.2. Other

Infringing

Determining whether a post or a comment violates the Maxims is seemingly impossible; the same can be said about infringement. Nevertheless, the Reddit admins and bots⁴ are able to identify these instances. Although Reddit is free and available for people all around the world to share their stories and opinions, the platform enforces many rules - some of them derived from the Cooperative Principle. Relevance is one of the most common rules enforced across all Reddit forums. Users are expected to contribute to the ongoing discussion and keep their posts and comments relevant to the topic at hand. Despite the fact that the following examples provided are of deleted posts from the platform, it is still possible to analyse and determine which rules were violated. It is important to note that violating these rules does not necessarily equate to violating the maxims of conversation.

⁴ Bots refer to an automatic system identifying Rules violations.

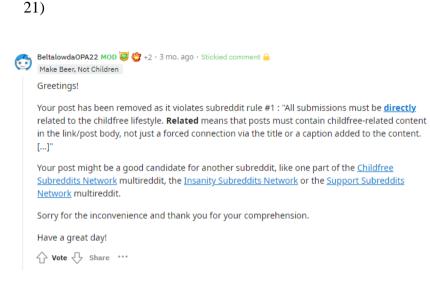


Figure 1 (Picture 1) - Screenshot: An Example of Infringing

In example (21), the OP expressed their complaint about "elves on the shelves," which was the same post mentioned in example (11). This particular example highlights an instance of *relation infringement*. The OP, possibly unaware of the set rules or guidelines, posted something that was not relevant to the r/childfree subreddit. As a result, the post was flagged as a violation of the subreddit's rules, specifically infringing the principle of relation. The following example shows a similar instance of *infringement*, although not as definite as the previous one.

22)



Figure 2 (Picture 2) - Screenshot: An Example of Infringing

In (22), Rule 3 of the 'unpopularopinion' forum stated that the post - mentioned in (9) - might be either similar to many other posts on the forum or might not be an unpopular opinion, which would make it *irrelevant*. After the inspection of the 'Megathread topics', it was determined that the post was deleted on the basis of not being relevant. In spite of the fact that it cannot be

certain whether the OP knew about the post's inadequacies, it is more than possible that this post also *infringed relation*.

23)

9

| 1 | AmItheAsshole-ModTeam MODS 😈 - 16 days ago - Stickied comment 🔒 |
|---|---|
| | Your post has been removed. |
| | Do not repost this without contacting the mods for approval, including edited versions. Reposting without explicit approval will result in a ban. |
| | You did not properly respond to the judgement bot. Your reply must clearly and directly address why you think you may have wronged the other party involved in your conflict. |
| | While your post was automatically approved by the bot, after reviewing your response manually, we found it did not properly address the question. |
| | Judgement Bot FAQs Subreddit Rules |
| | Please ensure you have reviewed this message in full. We will not respond to PMs to individual mods. <u>Message the mods</u> with any questions. |
| | ☆ Vote ↓ Share ···· |

Figure 3 (Picture 3) - Screenshot: An Example of Infringing

Even though it can be determined which Reddit rule was violated, it cannot always be clear which maxim was infringed. In example (23), the reasoning provided by the admins for the suspension of the post suggests that the user did not clearly and directly address why they think they might have wronged the other party involved. The maxims of *quality*, *quantity*, and *relation* could potentially be infringed in this situation. The user's explanation might have lacked adequate evidence or supporting details, infringing on the maxim of quality. Additionally, if the user did not provide enough information or elaboration in their response, it would violate the maxim of quantity. Lastly, if the explanation provided by the user was not relevant to the incident or the question at hand, it would be an infringement of the maxim of relation. Based on the mentioned information, it can be stated that this example falls under *combination infringement*, where multiple maxims were potentially violated simultaneously.

Violation

While violations of the maxims occur on Reddit forums, identifying such instances can be challenging for average users. Determining violations would require additional information and a deeper understanding of the users' intentions, which may not be readily available. However, the admins have access to resources and tools that can aid in identifying certain violations.



In example (24), a user has been suspended from Reddit due to their violation of the platform's terms of service. Lying and posting untrue information on the forums are common reasons for such suspensions. While identifying instances of lying can be challenging, users sometimes forget that all their posts and comments are visible on their accounts. If administrators or bots detect inconsistencies or repeated instances of providing false information, they may suspend the account to protect other users from potential misinformation. That being the case, the user might have possibly violated the quality maxim; the violation would have to occur repeatedly before the suspension.

5. Results of the analysis

This chapter focuses on the results of the analysis and the overall tendencies of Reddit users concerning the non-observance of maxims. The quantitative research shows that *flouting* is the most prominent kind of non-observance - *relation* and *quality* are flouted the most, while *quantity* and *manner* were flouted significantly less. *Infringing* and *violation* were found in only 10 cases.

The overall results show that from the corpus of 130 instances of non-observance, 120 were *flouting*, nine were *infringing*, and only one case of *violation*. From the 120 cases of flouting, 37 contained the flouting of *quality*, seven the flouting of *quantity*, 52 the flouting of *relation*, eight the flouting of *manner*, and 16 the combination of said maxims.

While it cannot be certainly said why, the results show that the flouting of *quality* and *relation* is the most prevalent; these two maxims display significant potential for creating implicatures in non-face-to-face conversations.

| Flouting | Quality | Quantity | Relation | Manner | Combination | Total |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|-------|
| r/AmItheAsshole | 6 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 15 |
| r/unpopularopinion | 13 | 2 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 42 |
| r/ADHD | 5 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 18 |
| r/childfree | 8 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 29 |
| r/atheism | 5 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| Total | 37 | 7 | 52 | 8 | 16 | 120 |

5.1. Flouting

Figure 5 (Table 1) - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis - Flouting

The subreddit on which these comments were found might also play a role in the nonobservance. 42 out of 120 instances were found on the r/unpopularopinion subreddit and 29 on the r/childfree subreddit - this might suggest that the users of these subreddits tend to be less direct. In contrast, only 15 cases were found on the r/AmItheAsshole subreddit, 18 on the r/ADHD subreddit, and 16 on the r/atheism subreddit, suggesting that the communities might be direct regarding their expression on the platform. The explanation might also lie in the behaviour of the users offline. People with ADHD diagnosis tend to be quite direct since they oftentimes also fall in the autism spectrum - people with such a diagnosis have a hard time decoding sarcasm and figurative language. In contrast, users on the r/unpopularopinion subreddit seem to be quite comfortable with the maxim non-observance, especially regarding relation - the users might share the same sense of humour. It is important to note that these observations are based on the analysed data and the specific subreddits examined. The communication styles and preferences within online communities can vary widely, and further research is necessary to establish more definitive conclusions about the relationship between subreddit choice, user behaviour offline, and the observance of conversational maxims.

Quality Flouting

As mentioned in 3.1., while flouting quality, the users were prone to use figurative language. Sarcasm was the most prominent, while the other types were detected in only 12 cases.

| Flouting QL | r/AmItheAsshole | r/unpopularopinion | r/ADHD | r/childfree | r/atheism | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Idiom | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Sarcasm | 1 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 25 |
| Hyperbole | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Proverb | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Metaphor | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 6 | 13 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 37 |

Figure 6 (Table 2) - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis - Quality Flouting

While using *idioms*, the users count on the reader's ability to infer the hidden meaning; as in (1); their intended implicature depends on the reader's knowledge of the English idioms. However, it is worth noting that while idioms are commonly used in conversations, their usage on the Reddit forum was relatively limited, with only four instances identified. One possible reason for this occurrence might be the awareness among users that Reddit is a global network, and people from various linguistic and cultural backgrounds may encounter their comments. For that reason, they may abstain from using idioms to achieve mutual understanding among all the users. Surprisingly, while the users on the r/AmItheAsshole subreddit were not prone to flout quality, they used idioms in half of the instances. The limited usage of idioms in online

discourse highlights the challenges of cross-cultural communication and the need for clarity and mutual understanding in global platforms like Reddit. While idioms can be powerful and efficient in conveying meaning among individuals with shared cultural backgrounds, their usage may present obstacles to achieving effective communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

During the analysis, it became evident that *sarcasm* was a prevalent form of communication among users, particularly when making fun of the original poster OP, as in (12). By employing sarcasm, users were able to express their criticism or mockery in a manner that might not appear as harsh or direct as explicit criticism - it allowed users to convey their disapproval or amusement while maintaining a degree of indirectness. Sarcasm in written form can be challenging to perceive accurately, as it lacks the accompanying tone of voice or nonverbal cues that often help convey sarcasm in face-to-face interactions. As a result, the intended meaning of sarcastic remarks might only become apparent when users are familiar with the usage of sarcasm in online contexts. There are cases where sarcasm might appear as a legitimate reaction initially, but only through exposure to the prevalent use of sarcasm online can the true meaning behind the statement be revealed (The OP talking about how using '/s' to mark sarcasm is pointless; user: Exactly, because sarcasm in text form is always obvious and you'd have to be a complete idiot to miss it. - App. 24). The prominence of sarcasm within the analysed data can likely be attributed to users' inclination to employ sarcasm in their everyday interactions. This familiarity with sarcasm enables them to navigate the comment section effectively and to determine which comments do not observe the conversational maxims. As was mentioned in the previous subchapter, the users on the r/unpopullaropinion are the most prone to flout the maxims, with the majority of quality flouts originating from this particular subreddit.

Hyperbole was identified in only four comments. The users usually exaggerated their actions or other situations (user: *I use my runny yolks as deodorant and slather it into my pits* - App. 32) to possibly imply that the other comments and posts were ridiculous.

In the context of *proverbs*, it was observed that users often modified the original wordings to suit the specific situation or possibly to align with their personal style - such modifications were identified in all instances. In one case, a proverb was slightly altered to fit the context better (user: *Play stupid games (theft), win stupid prizes (shame hair)* - App. 34). Here, the user adapted the original wording to incorporate the specific circumstances, demonstrating a deliberate effort to make the proverb more relevant to the situation at hand. In another instance

(example 4), the modification of the proverb was more pronounced, aimed at intensifying the argument or making a more substantial impact. This alteration suggests that users not only modify proverbs for contextual reasons but also for rhetorical purposes, seeking to enhance the persuasive or rhetorical effect of their statements. Interestingly, there was also a case where a proverb was entirely changed by a user (user: *Sometimes to make an omelette you have to kill the chicken. Or something like that* - App. 35). In this instance, the user likely intended to convey a similar meaning to the original proverb "You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs." The reasons for such modifications can be debatable, ranging from a desire to add a humorous twist to forgetting the correct proverb altogether.

Surprisingly, *metaphor* was identified only in one example (5). Despite their ability to simplify abstract or complex concepts, they are not popular on the five subreddits that have been studied. It might be important to point out that the examples have been chosen manually and randomly, which means they may not comprehensively represent metaphor usage within the entire Reddit community. Thus, it is possible that users employ metaphors, along with various other types of figurative language, more frequently than reflected in this particular study. A broader and more systematic investigation encompassing a larger sample size would be necessary to obtain a more accurate understanding of metaphor prevalence on Reddit.

Quantity Flouting

Quantity Flouting was the least notable - only seven cases were identified. The reason for such an outcome might stem from the general nature of the Reddit forum. As was mentioned in 4.1., there is a consensus to give complex answers, which means that flouting quantity by giving too much information is virtually impossible. On the other hand, giving little to no information is more prominent, accounting for six out of the seven identified examples. In some instances, users even expressed their opinions using just a single word, as seen in example (7). By using only one word (OP: *If you're family or a close friend wanted you to babysit there kid only on rare occasions like for a few days to a week once every several years, how would you feel about doing it?* User: *No.* – App. 43) users may intentionally convey a sense of certainty or firmness in their stance. In such cases, they may feel that providing additional explanation or reasoning would be unnecessary since their answer is sufficient for others to infer the implicature or intended meaning behind it. By deliberately providing minimal information, users may also employ conversational strategies to encourage further engagement, provoke responses, or make their statements more impactful by leaving them open to interpretation.

Relation Flouting

The maxim of *relation* was found to be the most frequently flouted, accounting for almost half of the identified examples with a total of 52 instances. In many cases, there was a noticeable tendency among users to utilize specific references as a means to create implicatures, as seen in examples (11) and (12). Interestingly, there was no observable pattern detected in the choice of references. Users employed a wide range of references, including references to movies (OP: *The beach really isn't that much fun.*; User: *Okay anakin.* - App. 91), political figures (OP: *I don't mind finding hair in my food. It reminds me that a human being made it for me, and I think it's kinda cute.*; User: *Pretty sure Anita Hill would disagree...* - App. 73), and even urban terms (OP: *Broke up a relationship of five and a half years because I don't want kids*; User: *Bye, Felix!*;) - App. 94). This diverse usage of references suggests that users may draw from their individual interests, experiences, and cultural knowledge to establish connections - when a user recognises and responds to a reference made by another user, it indicates a shared understanding and potentially forms the basis for future connection.

The following graph shows the staggering percentage of relation flouting in connection with the individual forums. While the subreddits r/childfree, r/AmItheAsshole, r/ADHD, and r/atheism all share similar results, the forum r/unpopularoninion accounts for nearly half the instances.

Relation Flouting

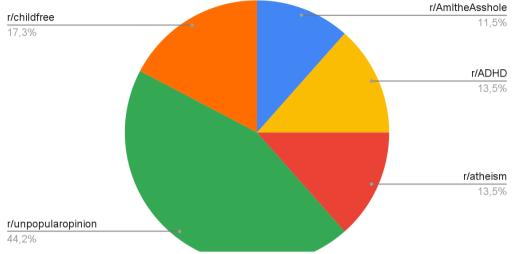


Figure 7 (Graph) - Relation Flouting

Manner Flouting

Among the four maxims of the Cooperative Principle, manner was observed to be the second least flouted maxim in the examined instances. However, it was still flouted in a few cases, specifically through the use of action descriptions, as in (14). This particular manner flouting pattern was identified in three out of eight instances analysed. The reasoning behind such expressions can be attributed to the desire for effortless and concise communication. By providing a specific action (OP: What do you do for a quick dopamine hit?; User: add to cart -App.103) people can relate to, the user ensures the successful inference of an implicature.

| Flouting Comb | r/AmItheAsshole | r/unpopularopinion | r/ADHD | r/childfree | r/atheism | Total |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| M+QN | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| M+QL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| R+QN | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| R+QL | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| QL+QN | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 16 |

Combination

Figure 8 (Table 3) - The Quantitative Results of the Analysis - Combination Flouting

A total of 16 comments were identified as instances of flouting multiple maxims. The most prevalent combination was the flouting *relation* and *quality*, observed in six instances. Notably, the r/childfree subreddit accounted for the highest number of occurrences, with eight comments, while the r/atheism subreddit did not have any comments fitting this category.

While dealing with the combination of manner and quantity, the use of interjections was found in two instances. These simple interjective responses, can convey a wide range of emotions and attitudes. The users can express their disgust (OP: *just ghosted a guy for lying about having a kid*; User: *ewww* - App. 108), joy, surprise, or other feelings. It was also in combination with manner when there was identified an instance of quantity flouting where the user gave too much and at the same time too little information (OP: *Real talk... How messy is your house?*; User: *Ah the horror of finally looking under the lid of that pot that had food in it for god knows how long just to find out there is an entire fungi civilization living there now... - App. 107) - this response provides too much information about the specific pot while not addressing the overall cleanliness of the entire house.*

There was only one example of the combination of *manner* and *quality flouting*, which can be found in (17).

The combination of *relation* and *quantity* was identified in three instances. While this combination has a strong potential to create answers that are too wordy and irrelevant, all three examples flout quantity by not giving enough information, as seen in (18).

As was already mentioned, the most flouted combination of maxims was *relation* plus *quality*; there were six cases. It was observed that this combination resulted in the creation of unique implicatures, mainly using sarcasm. Out of the six instances where this combination was detected, five of them exhibited clear signs of sarcasm, as indicated in (19). However, it remains uncertain whether the sarcastic nature was intentional or if it emerged as a by-product of providing irrelevant information. In the only instance which did not have sarcasm, the user combined relation flouting and quality flouting by simultaneously giving irrelevant information and using a metaphor and hyperbole (OP: *Have a debilitating physical disability? Iknow! HAVE A BABY!*; User: *With some people, the lizard brains takes over and shuts down not only all rational thought, but all basic empathy. "Must... breed..."* - App. 115) - the OP talked about a woman with Spinal Muscular Atrophy who is unable to take care of herself, having a baby.

The second least common combination was the combination of *quality* and *quantity* flouting. It was found in only two comments. In these instances, the users provided minimal or no explanation while employing sarcasm to suggest that their statements might not be truthful (OP: Who inherits your wealth when you [and partner] pass on and how will it be split?; User Wealth...lol - App. 120) - This combination of minimal explanation and sarcastic tone serves to convey a sense of scepticism or insincerity in the response.

5.2. Other

This subchapter focuses on instances of *infringing* and *violation*. Although these occurrences were not prevalent in the overall data set, a careful examination revealed the presence of ten notable examples. Among these, nine instances were identified as examples of infringing, where the speaker deviated from the maxims but without outright violating them. On the other hand, one example stood out as a clear violation, where the speaker intentionally breached the maxims of the conversation.

Infringing

In the analysis, it was previously mentioned that users do not engage in maxim infringement willingly but rather as a consequence of the strict rules imposed by the Reddit forum. Although the number of examples may not be extensive, the results show an interesting observation: six out of the nine instances of maxim infringement occurred on the r/unpopularopinion subreddit. This particular subreddit may be more prone to non-observance of conversational maxims due to the absence of a clear description of the term "unpopular opinion," which serves as the primary criterion for posting. As a result, users may mistakenly believe that their submissions align with the subreddit's requirements, only to discover that their posts are deleted, indicating a lack of shared sentiment among other users and forum administrators. The ambiguity surrounding the definition of "unpopular opinion" within the forum creates a potential challenge, as users may accidentally violate conversational maxims while attempting to express their viewpoints. Such unintended deviations can lead to conflicts with other users or result in post removal by moderators. Addressing this issue could involve establishing clearer guidelines and criteria for posting within the r/unpopularopinion subreddit to minimise misunderstandings and instances of maxim the r/unpopularopinion subreddit to minimise misunderstandings and instances of maxim on-observance.

Although all the examples are cases of infringement, they differ in the type of maxim they break. All the instances on the r/unpopularopinion subreddit were cases of *relation* infringement, whereas the two instances from the r/AmItheAsshole subreddit cannot be identified clearly. As was mentioned in chapter 4, there is a possibility that the examples infringe *quality*, *quantity*, *relation*, or all at the same time. What can be said for certain is that their nature is the same. Both OPs failed to address their reasoning for being in the wrong.

In examining the examples of maxim infringement, it becomes apparent that the examples differ in the type of maxim they break. Notably, all the instances originating from the r/unpopularopinion subreddit can be categorised as cases of relation infringement. In these examples, the users deviate from the expectation of providing relevant and meaningful information in their posts, which is crucial in a forum where expressing unpopular opinions is the main focus. On the other hand, the two instances from the r/AmItheAsshole subreddit do not clearly identify the specific maxim infringement. As discussed in chapter 4, it is plausible that the examples could be infringing quality, quantity, relation, or even multiple maxims simultaneously. What can be said for certain, however, is that both OPs fail to adequately address their reasoning for considering themselves at fault in their respective situations. Regardless of the type of maxim infringement, the consistent factor among these instances is the absence or insufficient articulation of the reasoning behind the OPs' perception of their wrongdoing. This lack of explanation undermines the overall clarity and effectiveness of their communication, making it difficult for other users to provide accurate assessments or relevant feedback. To enhance the quality of discourse within these forums, it is crucial for users to explicitly state their reasoning, providing clear context and supporting information. By doing so, users can foster a more productive and constructive environment for discussion and evaluation of their respective situations.

The last example was found on the r/childfree subreddit. Similarly to r/unpopularopinion, this forum fails to interpret what is 'child-free' content accurately. In example (21), the user seemed to genuinely consider his post to be relevant to being child-free since his experience with elves on the shelves ties to children. Nevertheless, the admins deleted his post. The deletion of the user's post indicates an inconsistency between the user's understanding of the forum's content focus and the admins' interpretation of what is appropriate within the context of the r/childfree subreddit.

Violation

Due to the nature of the maxim violation, this type of non-observance was the least common, with only one instance. As was mentioned during the analysis, the categorisation of example (24) is a mere hypothesis and can be faulty. During the extensive examination of the forum's rules, a pattern emerged regarding the consequences for users who engage in dishonesty and violate the quality maxim. It was observed that such users are typically met with strict penalties, commonly resulting in a ban from posting any further content on the forum. This approach demonstrates the forum's commitment to upholding high standards of integrity and ensuring that users contribute meaningful and trustworthy information.

Conclusion

The aim of this thesis was to analyse the implicatures created by the non-observance of Maxims of conversation on the Reddit forum and to determine whether the users employ some tendencies and patterns. The forum showed great potential for the study since the internet discussions follow a similar pattern to face-to-face conversations.

The theoretical part explained the terms computer-mediated communication, the Cooperative Principle, Maxims of conversation, implicature, and others. Some explanations were accompanied by examples to further showcase their nature.

For the practical part, a corpus consisting of 130 examples in total was created. The examples were carefully examined and categorised based on two main criteria: the type of non-observance and the specific Maxim of conversation that was broken. The results show the Maxim which was broken the most and the ways users broke them.

In conclusion, the analysis of Reddit users' tendencies regarding the non-observance of conversational maxims reveals several key findings. Flouting is the most prominent form of non-observance, with relation and quality being the most frequently flouted Maxims, followed by quantity and manner. Infringing and violation instances were relatively rare, with only 10 cases identified.

The data indicates that flouting of quality and relation is particularly prevalent, suggesting that these two maxims have significant potential for creating implicatures in non-face-to-face conversations. The choice of subreddit appears to play a role in the non-observance, with certain subreddits showing a higher tendency for maxims non-observance. For example, the r/unpopularopinion and r/childfree subreddits had a higher number of instances compared to the r/AmItheAsshole, r/ADHD, and r/atheism subreddit. This could be attributed to differences in communication styles and the shared sense of humour among users in these communities.

The analysis also highlights the usage of figurative language, such as sarcasm, idioms, hyperbole, and modified proverbs. Sarcasm was found to be a prevalent form of communication, particularly when making fun of the original poster. Idioms and metaphors were used less frequently, possibly due to the global nature of Reddit and the need for mutual understanding among users from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Quantity flouting was the least notable, with users more inclined to provide minimal information or single-word responses. Relation flouting was the most frequently observed, with users utilising specific references to create implicatures and establish connections with other users.

Instances of infringing and violation were relatively rare but noteworthy. The r/unpopularopinion subreddit showed a higher occurrence of maxim infringement, potentially due to the ambiguity surrounding the definition of "unpopular opinion" within the forum. It also became evident that only the forum administrators and bots were able to identify these types of Maxim non-observance.

While the findings provide insights into the tendencies of Reddit users, it is important to note that they are based on limited analysed data and specific subreddits examined. Communication styles and preferences within online communities can vary widely, and further research is necessary to establish more definitive conclusions about the relationship between subreddit choice, user behaviour offline, and the observance of conversational maxims.

Resumé

Reddit fórum je známá sociální síť, která je typická pro své členění do tzv. *subredditů*. Tyto komunity sčítají nespočet uživatelů, kteří se účastní diskusí na různá témata a během těchto interakcí se často dopouštějí porušování Kooperačního principu. Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá analýzou porušování konverzačních maxim na již zmíněném fóru. Cílem této práce je zjištění, zda uživatelé, kteří se dopouštění porušování maxim, dodržují nějaký vzorec či schéma postupu a také zda má výběr subredditu vliv na druh porušování maxim a na druh samotných maxim.

Práce je dělena na dvě dílčí části, na část teoretickou a praktickou. Teoretické část je dále dělena na tři stěžejní části; první část vysvětluje pojem počítačově zprostředkované komunikace, typické jazykové prostředky mluveného jazyka, které mají vliv na elektronický diskurz, problematiku vzájemného porozumění a termín trollování. Druhá část se zaobírá tématy kooperačního principu, konverzačních maxim – tedy Kvalita, Kvantita, Relevance a Způsob, dále je zde vysvětleno a demonstrováno porušovaní konverzačních maxim. Mezi tato porušování patří (1) úmyslné zkreslení výroku za účelem vytvoření implikatury, mluvčí nadále kooperuje s posluchačem (v angličtině tzv. *flouting*), (2) úmyslné zkreslení výroku za účelem zmatení posluchače, mluvčí v tomto případě s posluchačem nekooperuje (ang. violation), (3) neúmyslné zkreslení výroku nebo neporozumění výroku z důsledku špatného porozumění jazyka, v tomto případě je možné že si mluvčí svou chybu neuvědomí, což znamená že se stále snaží být kooperativní (ang. infringing) a (4) úmyslné odmítnutí odpovědi z etických či legálních důvodů, mluvčí se však nadále snaží kooperovat (ang. *opting out*)⁵. Poslední termínem v této části je implikatura. Třetí část je věnována detailnímu popisu fóra Reddit a jednotlivých subredditů, které jsou nedílnou součástí analytické části. Tento popis obsahuje informace týkající se diskutovaných témat a uživatelů, které jednotlivé subreddity navštěvují.

Pro praktickou část byl vytvořen korpus složený z celkem 130 příkladů porušovaní maxim – 120 komentářů a deset odstraněných příspěvků. Příklady byly vybrány náhodně během pročítaní komentářů na pěti subredditech (r/AmItheAsshole, r/unpopularopinion, r/childfree, r/ADHD a r/atheism). Každý příspěvek byl detailně zanalyzován a zařazen do kategorií vytvořených na základě druhů porušování maxim tedy *Flouting* a *Ostatní*. Kategorie Flouting se dále dělila na pět podkategorií, které byly vytvořeny dle typu porušovaných maxim tedy

⁵ V češtině nebyly nalezeny vhodné ekvivalenty pro tyto názvy. Kvůli této skutečnosti budou používány anglické výrazy.

Kvalita, Kvantita, Relevance, Způsob a v případě, kdy příklad porušoval více než jednu maximu, byl zařazen do kategorie Kombinace. Kategorie Ostatní se dělila na *Infringing* a *Violation*. Všechna data byla zaznamenávána do tabulek, které obsahují kvantitativní výsledky analýzy.

Praktická část byla nadále dělena na dvě kapitoly – 4. *Analýzu* a 5. *Výsledky analýzy*. Kapitola 4. se zabývala podrobným popisem porušování maxim a interpretací zamýšlených implikatur. U každého příkladu je uveden název originálního příspěvku, případný kontext a také samotný komentář, který je analyzován. Tyto interpretace jsou z velké části čistě subjektivní a existuje zde možnost, že uživatelé měli na mysli zcela úplně něco rozdílného. V kategorii *Ostatní* se nachází snímky obrazovky, na kterých se nachází vyjádření administrátorů jednotlivých subredditů. Tato kapitola je rozdělena na již zmíněné podkapitoly.

Kapitola 5. se zabývá výsledky analýzy, tedy konkrétních výsledků, které vyplynuly s kapitoly 4. *Flouting* byl použit ve 120 případech z celkových 130, *infringing* v devíti a violation pouze v jednom případě. Z jichž zmíněných 120 příkladů se v 37 případech jednalo o *flouting* Kvality, v sedmy případech o *flouting* Kvantity, v 52 případech o *flouting* Relevance, v osmi případech o *flouting* Způsobu a ve zbylých 16 případech o *flouting* Kombinace maxim. Bylo také zjištěno, že subreddit, na kterém byly komentáře a příspěvky naleznuty můžou hrát roly v počtu porušení maxim. Velká část byla na subredditu r/unpopularopinion (42 výskytů z 120) a subredditu r/childfree (29). Toto zjištění může naznačovat, že uživatelé na těchto subredditech jsou méně přímočaří. Zato subreddity r/AmItheAsshole (15), r/ADHD (18) a r/atheism (16) mohou navštěvovat uživatelé, kteří jsou více upřímní.

Při porušování Kvality pomocí *flouting* bylo zjištěno časté využívaní trop. Sarkasmus byl používán nejčastěji (25 případů z 37), dále se objevovaly idiomy (4), hyperboly (4), přísloví (3) a jedna metafora. Během porušování Kvantity docházelo častěji k poskytnutí malého množství informací nežli velkého množství, konkrétně šest ze sedmy případů. Tuto skutečnost může mít za následek samotná podstata fóra Reddit. Uživatelé jsou pobízeni ke sdílení co nejvíce informací, což znamená, že sdílení nadměrného množství informací není relativně možné. Porušování Relevance bylo zcela nejčastější – necelá polovina celkového počtu příkladů (52). Často pozorovaná tendence u uživatelů byla použití konkrétních odkazů na širokou škálu informací. Uživatelé se například odkazovali na filmy či politické osobnosti.

Co se týče kategorie Kombinace, bylo identifikováno 16 příkladů. Relevance a Kvalita byly kombinovány nejčastěji (6 z 16), dále se objevovaly kombinace Způsobu a Kvantity (4), Způsobu a Kvality (1), Relevance a Kvantity (3) a Kvality a Kvantity (2). Kombinace Relevance a Kvality se ukázala jako ideální pro vytvoření sarkastických poznámek. Ve všech, již zmíněných, případech se uživatelé s největší pravděpodobností snažili o to, aby byl jejich výrok brán s humorem. Ve většině byla také identifikována tendence vysmívat se uživatelům, kteří sdíleli původní příspěvky.

Porušování maxim pomocí *infringing* bylo identifikováno v devíti ze 130 případů. Na rozdíl od již zmíněných příkladů, které se skládaly z komentářů reagujících na určité příspěvky, se příklady *infringing* objevovaly pouze v samotných příspěvcích. Jednalo se o neúmyslné porušení pravidel subredditů, které jsou z velké části založeny na pravidlech Kooperačního principu – na základě porušení těchto pravidel byly příspěvky odstraněny ze serveru. Z analýzy těchto případů není zcela zřetelné, zda se jedná o jasné příklady *infringing*, tedy neúmyslného zkreslení výroku nebo neporozumění výroku z důsledku špatného porozumění pravidel. Nicméně z důsledného prozkoumání původních příspěvků není čitelný žádný nekalý úmysl ze strany uživatelů. Jediný případ *violation*, který byl identifikován během analýzy je příspěvek, který může být kategorizován jako *violation* Kvality. Stejně jako u předchozích příkladů, je složitá jasná identifikace porušení maxim. Ovšem vzhledem ke komentáři od administrátorů konkrétního subredditu je zřejmé, že se uživatel již několikrát dopustil lhaní či šíření nepravdivých informací, což znamená že porušil maxima Kvality.

Analýza tedy ukázala, že uživatelé na fóru Reddit často porušují konverzační maximy za účelem vytvoření implikatury a humorných komentářů. Nejčastěji se tedy porušovala Kvalita za pomoci sarkasmu.

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Appendix 1

Quality Flouting

 * AITA for calling out step-family's dirty laundry at Thanksgiving after they criticized me for being unmarried [OP asking whether she is in the wrong for exposing family secrets after they were rude.]

Don't go around poking a bear that is happily trying to hibernate. NTA - idiom

implicature= the user might be implying that OP did nothing wrong and that the reaction was understandable

2) * Do you accidentally ghost people? [OP asking whether other people with ADHD also 'ghost'-cut off all communication without explanation- others.]

Out of site out of mind @@@ - idiom, crying emojis might express sadness or, in recent years, laughter

implicature= the user is probably implying that they ghost other people

3) * AITA for telling my sister's they are getting nothing out of me for our mother's care?[OP's mother did not take proper care of them.]

NTA. People hate it when the chickens roost at home. - idiom

implicature= user may be implying that the mother's actions from the past have come to haunt her

4) * AITA for telling my boyfriend I'll shave my legs if he shaves his?

NTA

> He told me that it was unhygienic to not shave (a part of the original post)

Well if that's not the pot calling the kettle black, I don't know what is. - idiom

implicature= The user is probably implying that the boyfriend should not criticise his girlfriend for a fault that he has himself

 I think Airbnb's are flat out weird [OP shares an opinion about Airbnb accommodation, describing their distaste for it.]⁶

I agree... *let's stay at some random stranger's home. Sounds like a great idea*. -<u>sarcasm</u>, first, the user agrees, but then they contradict themselves

implicature= the user might not perceive Airbnbs as a good idea either

6) * 'the only reason you're OfFeNDeD is because you were told to be. probably by social media. [OP saying that people are offended because of social media pressure.]

Perfect timing for the war on christmas... it's coming! - <u>sarcasm</u>, since the term "war on Christmas" is about being offended, this comment is relevant

implicature= the user might be making fun of the OP by comparing his opinion to the "war on Christmas"

7) * 'Metal covers of popular songs are usually terrible.' [OP complaining about metal covers of popular songs.]

Well you are in the right place imo. I'm sure you have an amazing music taste of course! O - <u>sarcasm</u>, by using the emoji with rolling eyes the user might want to make sure that his comment is perceived as sarcasm

implicature= the user might think that OP has bad taste in music

 * This woman messaged me on fb and said she's jealous of my life but having a kid is the best thing that's happened to her

God forbid I am honest and admit that being a parent sucks most of the time.

And yes, cognitive dissonance alert. - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user might be implying that the mother is being dishonest about her child being the best thing that has ever happened to her

9) * Dating [OP talking about her experience as a childfree woman on a date with a father.]

⁶ Square brackets contain necessary context.

How nice. A Dad saying their kid isn't important. Sounds like a real winner how could you pass that up? (29) - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user is probably implying that the dad is not really a winner

10) * Terrible memory and recall is killing me [OP complaining about his poor memory]

I'm not sure if my wife is gaslighting me or I just don't remember anything... - sarcasm

implicature= the user may be implying that they also have terrible memory

11) * Modern art isn't bad by any means, but the prices shouldn't be that high

Being expensive is the entire point of it. How else would you use it as tax loophole. - sarcasm

implicature= the user is probably implying that some modern artists use their art to launder money

12)* I had the best arguments with a bunch of religious people [OP talking about his argument over the statment that he is a God.]

You are God. I have known this ever since I personally witnessed your resurrection from the dead.

I say this in case you need further evidence. It is right here in writing on the internet proving your point. And more evidence of your resurrection than there is for Jesus so this should be ironclad. - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user is probably implying that the "proof" that God exists could be easily replicated

13) * Sushi is actually awful and over-hyped and ppl say it's amazing to fit in

Yes, because you don't like it, that means everyone who eats it is just trying to fit in. (2)
<u>sarcasm</u>, by using the emoji with rolling eyes the user might want to make sure that his comment is perceived as sarcasm

implicature= the user might be implying that they like sushi as do other people

14) * My mom just sent me a letter from her psychic saying that I wouldn't be so angry if I had a child.

Seems like a totally legitimate reason to manufacture a person! - sarcasm

implicature= the user may be implying that it is not a legitimate reason to have a child

15) * Help my mom wants me to get baptised this Sunday

>you guys have a roof over your head and Food to eat every day? it's because of God and because I pray for you every day (a part of the original post)

Shit I didn't know I could just pray the rent away. - sarcasm

implicature= the user is probably implying that the original comment about praying is ridiculous

16) * Desserts smell infinity better than they taste, and I'd much rather smell them than eat them. [OP talking about only reheating Pop tarts and not eating them since he only enjoys the smell.]

Pop tarts aren't food so good thing you toss them. - sarcasm

implicature= the user might be implying that they do not see Pop tarts as a "real" nutritious food

17)* It is embarrassing that Americans are so enthusiastic about being deluged with ads during the Superbowl

I bet you're fun at parties. Especially Super Bowl parties. - sarcasm

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP might ruin parties by not being funny

18) * I'm truly baffled as to how frequently people with kids say 'it just happened'

Don't you just hate it when you're walking down the street, trip, rip your pants open on a loose nail in a fence, land penis first into the vagina of a pantsless woman, and instantly orgasm? Happened to me *twice* this week - <u>sarcasm</u> implicature= the user might be implying that no child is really an "accident"

19)* Doctor tells me I shouldn't get diasnosed with ADHD because it is a lifetime commitment

Funny, I don't remember signing up for this. But then I sometimes have memory issues. - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user is probably implying that not having a diagnosis does not mean that the person does not have ADHD

20)* Self service checkouts should give you a discount.

I'm compensated every time I use the self checkout. ;) - sarcasm

implicature= the user might be implying that they steal while suing the self-service checkout

21) * AITA for not wanting my fiancés daughter to come on our honeymoon? [OP wants to only take their baby but not the fiancé's daughter on their honeymoon.]

YTA

Congrats on unlocking "The Evil Stepmother" achievement! - sarcasm

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP does not like her stepdaughter by comparison to the Evil Stepmother

22) * Movies are extremely fake and a waste of time.

The people in it seem like they are just acting like someone they're not. It's so weird. /s - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user may be implying that movies being fake is the whole point

23)* Making fun of men who lose their hair because of male pattern baldness is body shaming

Yes, shaming someone's body is body shaming. - sarcasm

implicature= the user is probably implying that the statement is obvious and not worth discussion

24) * I downvote anyone who highlights sarcasm with /s at the end

Exactly, because sarcasm in text form is always obvious and you'd have to be a complete idiot to miss it. - sarcasm

implicature= the user might be implying that not everything is a clear example of sarcasm and some people might have trouble distinguishing it

25)* What hobbies/interests do you have that you wouldn't be able to afford if you had kids?

Buying weekly groceries. ;) - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user may be implying that they would not be able to afford weekly groceries if they had kids

26) * Mcdonald's is the best fast food restaurant

McDonald's marketing team is getting desperate - sarcasm

implicature= the user might be implying that someone from McDonald's marketing team wrote the post

27) * What have you accomplished INSTEAD of having kids? [OP asking other childfree people about the accomplishments they are proud of.]

Sleep. I get more than enough sleep. - sarcasm

implicature= the user may be implying that people with children do not get enough sleep

28) * Dear Pope Francis: If you're going to be an asshole, own it. [OP talking about Pope Francis and his claim that homosexuality is a sin but not a crime.]

But how could God, in his infinite wisdom, create something that is against his approval?? - <u>sarcasm</u>

implicature= the user might be implying that God's actions/Christians' interpretations are contradictory

29) * Why do very religious people have some of the worst personality traits?

I'll take brainwashed for 50 - sarcasm

implicature= the user is probably implying that a considerable amount of religious people are somewhat brainwashed by their religion but not literally

30) * I'm not asking in a rude way, but why are there so many parents on this sub? [Subreddit for child-free people.]

Facebook is leaking -hyperbole

31) * If the world was truly 'made for us' the oceans wouldn't be salt water

As I'm one of the soulless ginger people I'd like to add that the sun wouldn't threaten me with skin cancer and being burnt to a crispy crackle every summer. - <u>hyperbole</u>

implicature= the user is not burnt to a crackle, they are rather implying that their skin complexion is making them more prone to sunburn

32) * Runny yolks are gross.

I use my runny yolks as deodorant and slather it into my pits - hyperbole

implicature= the user is probably implying that they like runny egg yolks

33) * Is your handwriting messy?

Yes. The invention of the keyboard saved my life *O*. - <u>hyperbole</u>

implicature= the user is not saying that the invention saved their life, they are rather implying that it helped tremendously

34) * AITA for putting blue hair dye in my shampoo without letting my family know? [OP put blue hair dye in her shampoo, her sister borrowed it without asking and ended up with blue-stained hair.]

NTA - Play stupid games (theft), win stupid prizes (shame hair) - modified proverb

implicature= the user is implying that if a person (sister) makes poor decisions they should expect negative consequences (blue hair)

35) * Why do people with kids get triggered/offended at the idea of childfree adults?

Misery wants, nay DEMANDS, company. - modified proverb

implicature= the user might be implying that people with children want other people to "suffer" as themself by having children

36) * AITA for taking my kids to my parents house to sleep because my husband will not enforce the rules when his parents visit?

Sometimes to make an omelette you have to kill the chicken.

Or something like that

NTA - modified proverb

implicature= the user is probably implying that the mother had to do the unpleasant (going away) act in order to meet her goal (husband enforcing rules)

37) * How do you decide which of your hobbies to put time into? [OP has ADHD.]

My hobbies and interests decide for me, unfortunately. I am nothing but a leaf in the wind. - metaphor

implicature= the user might be implying that it is hard for them to decide and they often feel like they are not in control

Quantity Flouting

38) * AITA For not wanting to go ballroom dancing with my girlfriend on 'my' birthday?

NTA. I can't believe we even have to explain this. - not enough information

implicature= the user is probably implying that the answer to this question is so clear that it is not worth a discussion

39) * "You'd Look Prettier If You Tanned" Is Just Bad As Saying "You'd Look Prettier If You Got Paler" [OP complaining about people telling him to tan more.]

Do only fat people make those comments? What would he say if a super fit dude told you that vitamin D is important and he recommends to maintain healthy blood levels, aim to get 10-30 minutes of midday sunlight several times per week. - too much information about vitamin D - too much information

implicature= the user might be implying that OP's statement is ridiculous

40) * Why don't we treat Islam the same way we treat Nazism?

I do treat it the same. - not enough information, did not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that they do not think as the OP

41)* Why religions gives so much importance to virginity?

Control - not enough information

implicature= the user is probably implying that religious people like to control women

42) * Parks and Rec is a strictly better show than The Ofice

P&R has Ron Swanson. No further reason necessary. - too little information

implicature= the user might be implying that the actor Ron Swanson makes the TV show Parks and Rec better than The Office

43)* If you're family or a close friend wanted you to babysit there kid only on rare occasions like for a few days to a week once every several years, how would you feel about doing it?

No. - too little information

implicature= the user is probably implyin that there is no possibility that they would babysit

44) * Why do people pray to God to save people after an earthquake if it was God that made those earthquakes as the punishment in the first place?

Stockholm Syndrome. - too little information

implicature= the user may be implying that God is our caprot and people form a bond to him despite God's negative acts

Relation Flouting

45)* More or Less American [OP asking whether he is American enough while being bilingual.]

Is a Native American who doesn't speak English less American? - question-not relevant, needs to be an answer

implicature= the user might think that the answer is obvious and that the OP is "American enough"

46) * It's that time of year [OP complaining about elves on the shelves.]

Welp. I have been playing too much D &*D*. - the game D &D (Dungeons and Dragons) is not relevant to the Christmas elves on the shelves

implicature= the user is probably implying that they thought that the OP was talking about elves from a video game

47) * Mental health is a good excuse for shitty behavior [OP shares their opinion about mental health, excusing 'shitty' behaviour.]

I found the Kanye fan.

implicature= the user is probably implying that the singer Kanye West has mental health issues

48) * I am so sick of bigoted Christians claiming that marriage is between 'one man and one woman [OP complaining about Christians' definition of marriage.]

"Sweet home Alabama." Right? - question

implicature= the user may be implying that the relationships from the Bible were cases of incesst

49) * My estranged mother said that my bisalp closed the last chance we had at reconnecting[OP recalling her mother saying that OP's sterilisation closed the door for reconnection.]

Oh no... but anyway have you seen the new Wednesday Addams show? question, changed topic

implicature= the user is probably implying that it is not something the OP should bother themselves with

50) * Child kept sleeping on my shoulder on my 12hr flight back from Japan rant

I hate parents. - not relevant to the child

implicature= the user might be implying that the parents were to do something about the situation

51)* There are literally no reasons to choose an iPhone over an Android smartphone [OP sharing their opinion about iPhone and Android smartphones]

One day I woke up and didn't give a shit anymore, it was and still is a very freeing feeling. - not relevant to phones

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP should not worry about other people's phones

52)* Hand washing is superior to using dish washer [OP sharing their opinion about washing dishes]

And I thought FB was bad. - Facebook not relevant to washing dishes

implicature= the user may be implying that this opinion is worse than the posts they see on Facebook, which the find "bad"

53) * Texas atheists, how do you manage to stay sane?!

Get this: an Atheist in Alabama..... it's even worse - does not answer the question

implicature= the user might be implying that being atheist in Texas is not as hard as in Alabama

54) * Do I punish daughter who left iPad in an Uber [The daughter has ADHD.]

Report it to uber. Fucking shit. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that the mom should not worry about punishing her daughter but rather find the iPad

55) * AITA for telling my husband that his jokes aren't funny? [husband was joking about his wife not doing anything the whole day except taking care of chider and the house]

A quick way to shut him up is to put your 2.5 in daycare and get a FT job- see how fast he eats his works when he needs to contribute 1/2 to the house upkeep and parenting! - does not answer the guestion

implicature= the user may be implying that the husband would not be able to manage the same amount of work as his wife

56) * People that are way into vikings are worse than weebs [OP sharing their distaste for people that try to impersonate Vikings.]

This guy thinks episode three of the last of us was the greatest TV episode of all time. - not relevant to Vinkings

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP's opinion is not valid because they have bad taste

57) * Doing "everything" with your significant other/spouse is not toxic or unhealthy

Found the clingy girlfriend.

implicature= the user might be implying that OP wrote the post to excuse her behavior in a relationship

58)* Do you still drink coffee with your meds? [OP asking whether other people with ADHD pair their medication with coffee.]

I take Concerta and have a redbull on work mornings. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that the energy drink Redbull is the equivalent of a coffee

59) * Why do cults keep approaching me?

They knocked on my door once. I answered it in my boxers with a handgun, they never came back. That was almost 8 years ago. Can't be nice to them. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP should try harder to discourage cult members from approaching

60) * Having "stages" of your relationship is ridiculous. [OP complaining about people in relationships saying they are not ready for the "next step".]

I too was once 12

implicature= the user may be implying that the OP has a mentality of a twelve-year-old child

61) * AITA for moving out after my dad found out about my tattoos?

NTA You're an adult - does not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that OP is an adult they had every right to do what they did

62)* AITA for refusing to get a job and pay rent at my parents house? [OP is finishing highschool.]

Good luck on your A/Levels mate. Get the best results as you can and show what kinda man you are. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP should focus on their exams

63) * Do you ever have trouble sleeping because your brain won't stop?

White noise machine and weighted blanket are my two favorite sleep items personally (51) - does not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that they do have trouble sleeping

64) * Nightmares are better than good dreams

Freddy Krueger approves. - not relevant without context

implicature= the user may be implying that since the horror movie character Freddy Krueger uses nightmares to kill people he might have the same opinoin

65) * How to exist as an atheist in a Muslim World?

Leave if possible. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that atheists cannot safely exist in a Muslim World

66) * Was I being a bit too harsh? [OP asking whether she was hash on the cousin after they asked why she does not want children.]

Might have been a teachable moment. - does not answer the question directly

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP was not harsh but they might have been teaching a valuable lesson

67) * "Wasting" free time [OP talking about being exhausted as a result of ADHD and fulltime work.]

Exercise regularly

implicature= the user may be implying that if OP exercises regularly, they might have more energy

68) * Cats are cleaner than dogs

Enjoy your toxoplasmosis.

implicature= the user is probably implying that all cats have toxoplasmosis and that people with cant will also be affected

69) * Dogs aren't that great [OP sharing their opinion on dogs]

Get off your owner's reddit account, kitty. - not relevant to dogs

implicature= the user might be impying that the post looks like it was written by a cat

70) * AITA for yelling JUST LEAVE ME THE FUCK ALONE during a family dinner at a crowded restaurant? [OP lashed out at her brother after his degrading comments. Her dad did nothing to help.]

Tell dad when he needs help in his old age remember which kid he is bet on. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP should not take care of her father when he gets old

71)* Celebrating, shouting and clapping during/after a movie in a cinema is weird and annoying.

You won't like going to a Telugu movie theatre.

implicature= the user may be implying that the Telugu people often clap during movies

72)* IS IT BAD TO SAY THAT I AM TIRED OF HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES?

The number of days I spend feeling jealous of my dog is...*staggering*. - does not answer the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that they are also tired of responsibilities and often wish to be a dog with no responsibilities

73) * I don't mind finding hair in my food. It reminds me that a human being made it for me, and I think it's kinda cute

Pretty sure Anita Hill would disagree ... - not relevant without context

implicature= the user might be implying that if it was a pubic hair, it would not be "cute"

74) * Is a childfree clause enforceable in a prenup?

This is a lawyer question not a reddit question - does not answer the question

implicature= the user may be implying that OP should ask a lawyer instead of people on Reddit 75)* AITA for my coworker's daughter going through my purse and finding something inappropriate?

NTA I can't believe how delusional some people are

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP did nothing wrong and the blame is on the coworker

76) * Those of you with ADHD - do you think you act more childlike compared to others your age?

You mean normal people don't feel like this? - does not answer the question

implicature= the user might be implying that they feel more like a child and they thought everyone felt like it

77) * Do you find that it's hard to voice your "arguments" in an intelligent way at times?

There's too many words in my head and I only have one mouth. - not relevant to the question

implicature= the user is probably implying that they have trouble voicing their argument because they have many ideas in their head

78) * 'Google it' is really condescending and ignorant [OP complaining about people using the phrase "Google it" instead of proving their case]

who has hit the most home runs in the World Series?

implicature= the user may want to show that some questions deserve the answer "Google it"

79) * Living in a car isn't actually bad.

I like shitting in a toilet personally. - not relevant to the car

implicature= the user is probably implying that people who live in cars are forced to live without a toilette

80) * AITA For Leaving a Vacation I Planned for my GF After Her Friends Came Along?[OP was planning to propose during the vacation.]

NTA check the return policy on that ring. - not an answer to the question

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP should not propose to the girlfriend and end the relationship

81) * Rats get unnecessary hate

Someone has just seen inglourious basterds - not relevant without context

implicature= the user is probably implying that thee OP wrote that post just because of a movie and nor the animal itself

82) * Why isn't Christianity mocked more?"

Help me out. My backs starting to ache ... - not an answer

implicature= the user may be implying that they mock Cristianity and they are doing it all by themselves

83) * Im so sick of QR codes

Okay, grandpa.

implicature= the user might be implying that the reason OP does not like QR codes is because of their old age

84)* How should I say I am not interested on dating single parents or having kids without offending people on Online Dating Apps?

Being offended by your preference is a them problem. - not an answer

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP should try to accommodate other people

85) * Where can I read the original bible?

Hope you're good at reading ancient Hebrew 🙆 - not an answer

implicature= the user may be implying that the OP is not really looking for the original but rather for its translation

86) * Is it reasonable to ask Christians to argue their case without quoting the Bible?

Using Spiderman comic books to argue that Spiderman is real... - not an answer

implicature= the user is comparing Spiderman to God and therefore may be implying that God does not exist = Christians have no other way to argue apart from the Bible

87)* To all of the CF couples in this community, since you don't have children, what do you do with the other bedrooms in your house?

... what other bedroom? - not answering the question

implicature= the user may be implying that they do not have a spare bedroom because they cannot afford it

88) * A guy asked me if I was secretly a man because I told him I didn't want to have kids

That's a new one for the bingo! - not relevant without context

implicature= the user is probably implying that they have not heard this stereotype as a childfree person

89) * kissing with tongue is actually gross

My autism agrees 🍪 - not relevant to kissing

implicature= the user may be implying that they, as well as other people with autism, do not like the sensation

90) * ASMR is disgusting and painful to hear

Misophonia moment - not relevant without the knowledge of the word misophonia

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP has misophonia - intolerance of specific souunds

91) * The beach really isn't that much fun.

Okay anakin - not relevant without context

implicature= the user is probably comparing the OP to Anakin Skywalker from the Star Wars movies since both of them seem to hate sand

92) * As a pedestrian, I hate cyclists.

Claaaaaarksooooonnnnn - not relevant without context

implicature= the user may be implying that the Top Gear host Jeremy Clarkson would write a similar post since he often comments on his distaste for cyclists

93) * Valentine's Day isn't any more capitalist or made up than any other holiday

bah humbug - not relevant without context

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP is similar to Ebenezer Scrooge, who hates Christmas

94)* Broke up a relationship of five and a half years because I don't want kids [OP's boyfriend broke up with her because she does not want kids.]

Bye, Felix! ;) - not relevant without context

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP should not care about her exboyfriend because he is irrelevant in her life right now

95) * Neck Tattoos are stupid!

Shakes fist at sky - not relevant to tattoos

implicature= the user may be implying that the OP is elderly

96) * Wet socks are actually good

Karma farm. Go away - not relevant without context

implicature= the user might be implying that the OP wrote the post just to earn karma points and incerese their score

Manner Flouting

97) * Why is it so hard to be a normal functioning student? [OP has ADHD.]

We are calcium jars of neuron jelly riding a mech covered in meat that only sometimes does what we want it to, surrounded by many of the same. Go easy on yourself :) - obscure

implicature= the user may be implying that there is no easy answer to how our brains function

98) * Bubble (boba) tea a waste of perfectly good milk, tea and tapioca.

Me : < holds up cross towards you while incanting an exorcism> - describing an action

implicature= the user is probably implying that OP's opinion is comparable to being the Devil

99) * I'm disturbed by my mother's comment on afterlife.

Religious Tactics 101: frighten people and then sell them false hope - imitating the names of college courses

implicature= the user may be implying that religious learn how to threaten non-believers from the Bible/other scriptures

100) * Haikus are fucking stupid and sound bad.

This guy hates haikus

I think he's overreacting

They don't bother me - in a form of haiku

implicature= the user might want to show OP that haikus can be enjoyable

101) * Went on a date and the guy said three is no point of marriage unless you have children

whole man disposal.jpg - imitating the name of a picture document

implicature= the user is probably implying that OP should not interact with the man anymore and "delete" him from her life

102) * Just like your parents, you have a duty to continue society [OP complaining about the expectations of society to have children.]

The system: *feed me slaves, FEED ME SLAVES!* rubbing gobblin hands together.

103) * What do you do for a quick dopamine hit?

add to cart - describing an action

implicature= the user may be implying that they shop for fun

104) * Do you think some people have kids just so they have someone to control?

my dad enters the chat - describing an action

implicature= the user is probably implying that their father controlled their life

Combination of Flouting

105) * The most beautiful thing a woman can do is be a wife and mother [OP complaining about a tweet saying: "The most beautiful thing a woman can do is be a wife and a mother."]

Barf. - manner (interjection), quantity (not enough information)

implicature= the user may be implying that the tweet made them nautious

106) *Parents who have more children while neglecting their current children [OP complaining about parents who have more children while neglecting the ones they have currently.]

Must. Obey. Primal. Urges. [read in emotionless robotic tone] - <u>manner</u> (sentence fragments), <u>quantity</u> (not enough information)

implicature= the user is probably implying that the above-mentioned people behave like animals

107) *Real talk... How messy is your house? [OP asking whether other people with ADHD have a messy house.]

Ah the horror of finally looking under the lid of that pot that had food in it for god knows how long just to find out there is an entire fungi civilization living there now... - manner (not brief, intentionally obscure to create humor), <u>quantity</u> (too much information about one pot, not enough information about the rest of the house)

implicature= the user is probably implying that their house is really messy

108) * just ghosted a guy for lying about having a kid

ewww!!! - manner (interjection), quantity (not enough information)

implicature= the user may be implying that they re disgusted by the man

109) * Why do people pray for other people to get pregnant?

BeCaUSe ThaTs whaT yOuR sUpPosEd To dO - manner (combination of upper and lower case letters - often a sign of sarcasm), <u>quality</u> (sarcasm)

implicature= the user might be implying that they think people do not have to have chillren

110) * What careers are y'all excelling in? [OP asks in which careers people with ADHD excel.]

23 here. I'm excelling in being GAY. - <u>relation</u> (not related to careers), <u>quantity</u> (not enough information)

implicature= the user may be implying that they do not excel in any career yet

111) AITA for complaining after I asked to join my husband on his business trip(s)?

YTA. Read what you wrote. - relation (not an answer to the question), quantity

implicature= the user is probably implying that OP is in the wrong and all her answers are in the post, she just has to reread it 112) *Anyone say "what" to a person right after they say something, and while they're in the middle of repeating it you actually did hear what they said, it just took you a second to comprehend and piece it together because shoot that's just how your brain is?

What? relation (not an answer to the question), quantity (too little information)

implicature= the user is probably implying that they do experience the mentioned problem

* AITA for insisting on having my daughter be a flower girl since my fiancé's 3 daughters are flower girls?

Soon you will be the 3rd ex-wife and the mother of his 5th child..congratulations! _relation (not relevant to the question), quality (sarcasm)

implicature= the user might be implying that her fiancé is going to divorce OP soon

114) * The never ending competition between parents on "who's more tired" [OP talking about a mother of four complaining about how tired she is in comparison with a chronically-ill person.]

I cut myself once with a kitchen knife. It hurt. Then I cut myself three more times so that I'd win some sort of one-upmanship in casual conversation. I guess I'm an idiot. relation, quality (sarcasm)

implicature= the user may be implying that complaining about having children is like cutting yourself on purpose and then complaining

115) *Have a debilitating physical disability? Iknow! HAVE A BABY! [OP talking about a woman with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, who is unable to take care of herself, having a baby]

With some people, the lizard brains takes over and shuts down not only all rational thought, but all basic empathy. "Must... breed..." - relation, quality (hyperbole - nothing is shut down, and metaphor - lizard brain)

implicature= the user might be implying that some people with children cannot think rationaly

116) * Scratchy towels are superior to soft towels.

Well, I guess it's true.... Reddit really is Lucifer's favorite social media platform. - relation, quality (sarcasm)

implicature= the user is probably comparing the OP to Lucifer and thinks that the opinion is "evil"

* Baby shower in the workplace? [OP complaining about how not attending a baby shower at work might cause losing the chance of promotion.]

Oh shoot you have a medical appointment. - relation, quality (sarcasm)

implicature= the user is probably implying that the OP should lie about a medical appointment to get out of the baby shower without repercussions

118) * Jeans are uncomfortable and not good everyday pants

Nice try big sweatpants corp - relation, quality (sarcasm)

implicature= the user is probably implying that corporations that manufacture sweatpants might write a post like this

119) * How do you fricking read a paper book with ADHD?

you don't - quality (sarcasm), quantity (too little information)

implicature= the user may be implying that reading paper books with ADHD is difficult

120) * Who inherits your wealth when you [and partner] pass on and how will it be split?

Wealth...lol - quality (sarcasm), quantity (too little information)

implicature= the user may be implying that they do not have any wealth to be passed on

Infringing

121)

MOD 🤯 • 3 mo. ago • Stickied comment 🔒

Thank you for submitting to <u>r/unpopularopinion</u>, <u>/u/Medium_Salamander829</u>. Your post, *More Or* Less American, has been removed because it violates our rules:

Rule 3: Megathread topic.

Your opinion falls under an incredibly common topic, in which virtually all opinions are either not unpopular, or are posted about many times a day. Please visit the megathread hub, which can be found when sorting the subreddit by "hot", sticky'd at the top of the page, where you can find links to the current megathreads. If you're not sure which megathread your post belongs in, or your post covers multiple megathread topics, just make the best selection you can.

If there is an issue, please message the mod team at https://www.reddit.com/message/compose?to=%2Fr%2Funpopularopinion Thanks!

☆ Vote ↓ Share ···

122)

AmItheAsshole-ModTeam MODS 🤯 · 3 mo. ago · Stickied comment 🔒 Your post has been removed.

Do not repost this without contacting the mods for approval, including edited versions. Reposting without explicit approval will result in a ban.

You did not properly respond to the judgement bot. Your reply must clearly and directly address why you think you may have wronged the other party involved in your conflict.

While your post was automatically approved by the bot, after reviewing your response manually, we found it did not properly address the question.

Judgement Bot FAQs ||| Subreddit Rules

Please ensure you have reviewed this message in full. We will not respond to PMs to individual mods. <u>Message the mods</u> with any questions.

☆ Vote ♂ Share ···

123)

Flair_Helper MOD 🤯 · 3 mo. ago · Stickied comment 🔒

Thank you for submitting to <u>r/unpopularopinion</u>, <u>/u/theonly1theymake5</u>. Your post, the only reason you're OfFeNDeD is because you were told to be. probably by social media., has been removed because it violates our rules:

Rule 3: Do not post opinions that are heavily posted/have been on the front page recently.

If your opinion is the same or substantially similar to any recent opinion it will be removed as a repost. If your opinion is on the same matter as a recent post, even if it's advocating the opposite stance, it will be removed as a repost. Please comment on the existing thread instead.

Due to their prolific reposting, please confine meta and political posts to their respective megathreads only.

If your opinion is about an ongoing event, there will usually be a mega-thread where you can discuss it.

If there is an issue, please message the mod team at

https://www.reddit.com/message/compose?to=%2Fr%2Funpopularopinion Thanks!

🗘 Vote 🕂 Share 🚥

124)

BeltalowdaOPA22 MOD 🤯 🈋 +2 · 3 mo. ago · Stickied comment 🔒 Make Beer, Not Children

Greetings!

Your post has been removed as it violates subreddit rule #1 : "All submissions must be <u>directly</u> related to the childfree lifestyle. **Related** means that posts must contain childfree-related content in the link/post body, not just a forced connection via the title or a caption added to the content. [...]"

Your post might be a good candidate for another subreddit, like one part of the <u>Childfree</u> <u>Subreddits Network</u> multireddit, the <u>Insanity Subreddits Network</u> or the <u>Support Subreddits</u> <u>Network</u> multireddit.

Sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your comprehension.

Have a great day!

🗘 Vote 🕂 Share 🚥

125)

MOD 🤯 · 21 days ago · Stickied comment 🔒

Thank you for submitting to r/unpopularopinion, /u/Celatris. Your post, People that are way into vikings are worse than weebs, has been removed because it violates our rules:

Rule 1: Your post must be an unpopular opinion.

Please ensure that your post is an opinion and that it is unpopular. Controversial is not necessarily unpopular, for example all of politics is controversial even though almost half of the US agrees with any given major position on an issue.

Keep in mind that an opinion is not: a question, a fact, a conspiracy theory, a random thought, a new idea, a rant, etc. Those things all have their own subreddits, use those.

If there is an issue, please message the mod team at <u>https://www.reddit.com/message/compose?to=%2Fr%2Funpopularopinion</u> Thanks!

☆ Vote ↓ Share ···

126)

Posted by 3 months ago ☆ More Or Less American 0 J R3 - Megathread/wiki topic Sorry, this post has been removed by the moderators of r/unpopularopinion. × Moderators remove posts from feeds for a variety of reasons, including keeping communities safe, civil, and true to their purpose. \bigcirc 42 Comments $\stackrel{\frown}{+}$ Award $\stackrel{\frown}{\rightarrow}$ Share \bigcirc Save \cdots 127)MmItheAsshole-ModTeam MODS 👿 · 16 days ago · Stickied comment 🔒 Your post has been removed. Do not repost this without contacting the mods for approval, including edited versions. Reposting without explicit approval will result in a ban. You did not properly respond to the judgement bot. Your reply must clearly and directly address why you think you may have wronged the other party involved in your conflict. While your post was automatically approved by the bot, after reviewing your response manually, we found it did not properly address the question. Judgement Bot FAQs ||| Subreddit Rules Please ensure you have reviewed this message in full. We will not respond to PMs to individual mods. Message the mods with any questions. ☆ Vote ↓ Share ··· 128) Flair_Helper MOD 🤯 · 13 days ago · Stickied comment 🔒 Thank you for submitting to r/unpopularopinion, /u/Duriel_1000. Your post, Im so sick of QR codes, has been removed because it violates our rules:

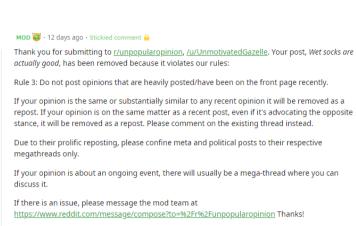
Rule 1: Your post must be an unpopular opinion.

Please ensure that your post is an opinion and that it is unpopular. Controversial is not necessarily unpopular, for example all of politics is controversial even though almost half of the US agrees with any given major position on an issue.

Keep in mind that an opinion is not: a question, a fact, a conspiracy theory, a random thought, a new idea, a rant, etc. Those things all have their own subreddits, use those.

If there is an issue, please message the mod team at <u>https://www.reddit.com/message/compose?to=%2Fr%2Funpopularopinion</u> Thanks!

☆ Vote ↔ Share ···



☆ Vote ↓ Share ···

Violation

130)



This post has been removed due to the status of the original poster's account. This account is currently shadowbanned or suspended, suggesting this account is in violation of Reddit terms of service.

This type of ban/suspension is issued by the Reddit site-wide admins. The AITA mods have nothing to do with this ban and cannot assist in resolving.

☆ Vote ♂ Share ***

129)

Appendix 2

| A comment under the post "AITA for calling out step-fa criticized me for being unmarried" on Reddit forum "r/A | |
|---|--|
| 1 "ReviewOk929". Accessed December 2, 2022. | mItheAsshole". Written by user |
| https://www.reddit.com/r/AmItheAsshole/comments/za3 ndry_at/ | bte/aita_for_calling_out_stepfamilys_dirty_lau |
| A comment under the post "Do you accidentally ghost pe | cople?" on Reddit forum "r/ADHD". Written by |
| 2 user "Acrobatic-Evening899". Accessed December 2, 20 | 22. |
| https://www.reddit.com/r/ADHD/comments/z506g0/do_ | you_accidentally_ghost_people/ |
| A comment under the post "AITA for telling my sister's | hey are getting nothing out of me for our |
| mother's care?" on Reddit forum "r/AmItheAsshole". Wr | itten by user "Defiant-Currency-518". |
| 3 Accessed December 2, 2022. | |
| https://www.reddit.com/r/AmItheAsshole/comments/z9i | uxw/aita_for_telling_my_sisters_they_are_getti |
| ng/ | |
| A comment under the post "AITA for telling my boyfried | nd I'll shave my legs if he shaves his?" on |
| 4 Reddit forum "r/AmItheAsshole". Written by user "StAI | vis". Accessed February 6, 2023. |
| https://www.reddit.com/r/AmItheAsshole/comments/10u | xee0/aita_for_telling_my_boyfriend_ill_shave |
| _my_legs/ | |
| A comment under the post "I think Airbnb's are flat out v | veird" on Reddit forum "r/unpopularopinion". |
| 5 Written by user "Internal_Ad8978". Accessed December | 1, 2022. |
| https://www.reddit.com/r/unpopularopinion/comments/z | 923as/i_think_airbnbs_are_flat_out_weird/ |
| A comment under the post "the only reason you're OfFe | NDeD is because you were told to be. probably |
| by social media." on Reddit forum "r/unpopularopinion" | . Written by user "IntelliPleb". Accessed |
| 6 December 1, 2022. | |
| https://www.reddit.com/r/unpopularopinion/comments/z | 9ws4m/the_only_reason_youre_offended_is_b |
| | |
| ecause_you/ | |
| A comment under the post "'Metal covers of popular son | gs are usually terrible." on Reddit forum |
| A comment under the post "'Metal covers of popular son "r/unpopularopinion". Written by user "edric96". Access | |
| A comment under the post "Metal covers of popular son | ed December 2, 2022. |

| | A comment under the post "This woman messaged me on fb and said she's jealous of my life but having |
|----|--|
| 8 | a kid is the best thing that's happened to her" on Reddit forum "r/childfree". Written by user "RedStone85". Accessed January 3, 2023. |
| 8 | https://www.reddit.com/r/childfree/comments/101cy4j/this_woman_messaged_me_on_fb_and_said_sh es/ |
| 9 | A comment under the post "Dating" on Reddit forum "r/childfree". Written by user "kfuzzled892". Accessed February 1, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/childfree/comments/10piaz4/dating/ |
| 10 | A comment under the post "Terrible memory and recall is killing me" on Reddit forum "r/ADHD". Written by user "unsupported". Accessed February 1, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/ADHD/comments/10pxzdo/terrible_memory_and_recall_is_killing_me/ |
| 11 | A comment under the post "Modern art isn't bad by any means, but the prices shouldn't be that high" on Reddit forum "r/unpopularopinion". Written by user "Haranador". Accessed February 2, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/unpopularopinion/comments/10qaw1z/modern_art_isnt_bad_by_any_means_ but_the_prices/ |
| 12 | A comment under the post "I had the best arguments with a bunch of religious people" on Reddit forum "r/atheism". Written by user "OMKensey". Accessed February 2, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/atheism/comments/10jhpgs/i_had_the_best_arguments_with_a_bunch_of/ |
| 13 | A comment under the post "Sushi is actually awful and over-hyped and ppl say it's amazing to fit in" on Reddit forum "r/unpopularopinion". Written by user "farawaydread". Accessed February 2, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/unpopularopinion/comments/10o186t/sushi_is_actually_awful_and_overhype d_and_ppl_say/ |
| 14 | A comment under the post "My mom just sent me a letter from her psychic saying that I wouldn't be so angry if I had a child." on Reddit forum "r/childfree". Written by user "goodguy-greg". Accessed February 6, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/childfree/comments/10suax4/my_mom_just_sent_me_a_letter_from_her_psy chic/ |
| 15 | A comment under the post "Help my mom wants me to get baptised this Sunday" on Reddit forum "r/atheism". Written by user "GerFubDhuw". Accessed February 6, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/atheism/comments/10te9ss/help_my_mom_wants_me_to_get_baptised_this_s unday/ |
| 16 | A comment under the post "Desserts smell infinity better than they taste, and I'd much rather smell them than eat them." on Reddit forum "r/unpopularopinion". Written by user "Accountantnotbot". Accessed February 6, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/unpopularopinion/comments/10uaw0u/desserts_smell_infinity_better_than_th ey_taste/ |

| 17 | A comment under the post "It is embarrassing that Americans are so enthusiastic about being deluged with ads during the Superbowl" on Reddit forum "r/unpopularopinion". Written by user "BungleCrungus". Accessed February 7, 2023. https://www.reddit.com/r/unpopularopinion/comments/10vb76b/it_is_embarrassing_that_americans_are _so/ |
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