

The Pragmatics of Aggravation in Coetzee's Disgrace Novel

*Wafaa Mokhlos Faisal

**Aseel Kareem Muhammed

Department of English/College of Education for Human Sciences/University of Babylon

*hum.wafaa.mukhlus@uobabylon.edu.iq**aseel.schaab.hum50@student.uobabylon.edu.iq

Submission date: 9/ 11 /2022

Acceptance date: 12 / 11 /2022

Publication date: / /2022

Abstract

Aggravation is as an act of sequences that strengthen the universal illocutionary force; therefore, the speaker assaults the self-image of the target, and supporting conflict or struggle. Aggravation has been little attention from a pragmatic perspective; therefore, this paper attempts to identify the pragmatic aspects of aggravation in Coetzee's Disgrace novel. Specifically, this work sets itself the task of answering the following questions: (1) What are the most predominant speech acts used in the novel Disgrace (2) What are the most frequently strategies of aggravation utilized in the chosen novel? And which is the most common non-observed Grice's maxim in this novel? Consequently, the study aims at identifying the most common speech acts employed in using aggravation, showing the most frequent strategies of aggravation utilized in such novel and identifying the most frequently non-observance maxim. It is hypothesized that: Representative and expressive speech acts are more frequently used in the chosen novel. Positive aggravation is the most frequently strategy employed, and quantity maxim is the most frequently non-observance maxim. This study is limited to analyze five texts from "Disgrace" novel which written in 1999 by Coetzee . The study ends up with a variety of conclusions, the most central of which is that speech acts of representative, declarative, and expressive are used in Disgrace novel and the use of conversational maxims are to make the communication effective.

Key: Pragmatics, Aggravation, Speech Acts, Grice's maxims.

تداولية التصعيد في رواية "الخبزي" لكوتزي

وفاء مخلص فيصل أسيل كريم محمد

قسم اللغة الانكليزية/ كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية/ جامعة بابل

المستخلص

التصعيد هو فعل متسلسل يقوي قوة الخطاب؛ لذلك، يعتدي المتكلم على الصورة الذاتية للخصم، ويدعم الصراع أو النضال. لم يحظ التصعيد باهتمام كبير من المنظور التداولي؛ لذلك، يحاول هذه البحث تحديد الجوانب البراغماتية للتصعيد في رواية "الخبزي" لكوتزي. على وجه التحديد، يضع هذا العمل مهمة الإجابة على الأسئلة التالية: (1) ما هي أكثر أفعال الكلام شيوعاً المستخدمة في رواية الخبزي (2) ما هي أكثر استراتيجيات التصعيد المستخدمة في الرواية المختارة؟ وما هو أكثر قول من اقوال أو حكم غريس قد استخدم يصوره غير مقصودة في هذه الرواية؟ وبالتالي، تهدف الدراسة إلى تحديد أفعال الكلام الأكثر شيوعاً المستخدمة في التصعيد، وإظهار الاستراتيجيات الأكثر شيوعاً للتصعيد المستخدمة في هذه الرواية وتحديد مبدأ عدم التقيد الأكثر شيوعاً. ويفترض الباحثين انه سوف يتم استخدام أفعال الكلام الأكثر تمثيلاً وتعبيراً بشكل متكرر في الرواية المختارة. التصعيد الإيجابي هو الإستراتيجية الأكثر استخداماً، والمبدأ الكمي هو في أغلب الأحيان المبدأ الأكثر استخداماً. تقتصر هذه الدراسة على تحليل خمسة نصوص من الرواية المختارة.

الكلمات الدالة : التداولية، التصعيد، أفعال الكلام، مبادئ كرايس

1. Introduction

This is a study of finding the term Aggravation in Coetzee's Disgrace novel, which explores the possibility of looking differently to the concept of aggravation in holding some strategies between the varieties of the novel. It adopts some pragmatic characteristics from Searle (1969) speech acts, Lachenicht (1980) strategies of aggravation and Grice's Maxims (1975) are utilized for the analysis of the data under study. Specifically, this work sets itself the task of answering the following questions: (1) What are the most predominant speech acts used in the novel Disgrace (2) What are the most frequently strategies of aggravation utilized in the chosen novel? And which is the most common non-observed Grice's maxim in this novel? Consequently, the study aims at identifying the most common speech acts employed in using aggravation, showing the most frequent strategies of aggravation utilized in such novel, figuring out the most frequently non-observance maxim, and pinpointing how the term aggravation is used based on off record, bald on record, positive aggravation and negative aggravation in chosen novel.. It is hypothesized that: Representative and expressive speech acts are more frequently used in the chosen novel. Positive aggravation is the most frequently strategy employed, and quantity maxim is the most frequently non-observance maxim. This study is limited to analyze five texts from "Disgrace" novel which written in 1999 by Coetzee .

1.1 Aggravation

The term aggravation is referred to an act or situation that increases something or makes something worse [1:p.48]. Jorgensen [2:p.12] asserts that aggravation is as an act of sequences that strengthen the universal illocutionary force; therefore, the speaker assaults the self-image of the target, and supports conflict or struggle.

Locher and Bousfield [3:p.3] state that there is no solid agreement as to what impoliteness actually is, the lowest common denominator seems to be impolite behaviour that is face-aggravating in certain context. The concept of aggravation for certain reason is considered as impolite behaviour in particular situation.

Aggravating offence strategies have two contexts: first, using contributing factor of 'offence-seriousness' in order to distinguish between classifications or stages of the offence and second identifying the level or category appropriate to the specific case; an instruction will typically put a number of aggravating issues [4:p.22].

An aggravated offence appeals to be a harsher consequence in credit of the situations of the offending. The offender is dedicated in the course of intentionally and systematically imposing difficult pain on the victim. The offender tries to use or to threat others by using an aggressive weapon to commit the offence. Hence, the offender attempts to abuse the position of authority or of belief in committing the offence. Therefore, he makes the situation worse by aggravating this situation (web source 1). In this regard Lee [5:p.5] defines aggravation by saying that "it makes something worse really, this term means irritation or it means annoyance". So, the concept of aggravation refers to the idea of making situation or problem worse.

1.1.1 Language of Aggravating

The use of the language of aggravation is a rational effort to hurt or destroy the addressee. "It is important to study not only the socially positive, but also the socially

negative. Just as we cannot attain an adequate appreciation of *value* without an understanding of rubbish, so we cannot attain an appreciation of the positive uses of language without an understanding of invective.” The word ‘hurt’ is achieved by two ways; [6: p.680]

(i) Including that the receiver (addressee) is not liked and does not belong.

(ii) Interfering with the freedom action of the addressee [6:p.607].

In this regard, Culpeper [7:p.349] clarifies the same view especially when he proposes that ‘impoliteness’ which is defined as the following , when the speaker uses an action or utterance in order to attack the interlocutor by causing conflict or social disturbance. He regards impoliteness as attacking the face of the hearer that can take positive or negative face Jucker [8:p.164] says that the explanation of impoliteness according to Culpeper (1996) is similar with Lachenicht idea of positive aggravation and negative aggravation. He says that when the speaker uses impolite language as a deliberate attack on the need of interlocutor, it is to be accepted of or to perform an act without restrictions. There are four strategies of aggravation by calling them as super-strategies. In addition, he proposes that aggravation can be explained and adjoined[6:p.619].

1.1.2 Strategies of Aggravating

The super strategies are decided in rising order of degree of face threat (Off Record – Bald on Record – Positive and then Negative aggravation). These four super-strategies are used in order to account for aggravating language. The strategies of aggravation are; off record, bald on record, positive aggravation, and negative aggravation [6:p.619].

1.1.2.1 Off Record

Off record strategies are normally used to aggravate the power of the addressees. Off record strategy comprises vague insults, insinuations or implications and hints. This strategy is similar to the politeness strategy, and is intended to permit the insulter to meet a hurt challenge from the person that is injured with a declaration of innocence [9:p.82].

1.1.2.2 Bald on Record

This strategy is directly made FTAs (face threat acts) and impositions as, for example, (Shut that door, Do your work, Don’t talk, etc.) which is the same in the politeness strategy.

1.1.2.3 Positive Aggravation

It is used for the closer relationship among people . Positive aggravation defines as the situation when someone finds himself committed to and has made promises for the reason of taken responsibility for that and gets higher on his priority puts due to close-fitting limits and other exterior forces. It is important to mention that interior forces, such as ‘procrastination’, can also increase the positive aggravation level. Positive Aggravation, being, specifically that which deliberately and intentionally expresses to the hearer that he or she is not liked, will not be co-operated with and/or does not be appropriate (Web source2). In other words, positive aggravation strategy is an aggravation strategy that is used to show the hearer (addressee) that he is not approved of, is not respected, does not belong, and will not obtain collaboration [9:p.83].

1.1.2.4 Negative Aggravation

It is used for socially distant people. Negative aggravation is an aggravation strategy that is intended to impose on the receiver, to interfere with his liberty of act, and to attack the social position or his social status and the base of his social action [6:p.619].

Positive aggravation and negative aggravation seem to be differentiated in terms of their directio to positive and negative face wants (Brown and Levinson 1987).

Lachenicht (1980) neglects to consider silence or 'opting out' (Grice 1975) as a probable strategy to aggravate or 'hurt' the self of the interlocutor. Thomas (1995:175) pinpoints that 'silence' is an expectation that indicates something must be said. Moreover, off record strategies are [6:p.619] normally, be used against the addressee's powerful, whereas, bald on record super-strategy can be considered either polite or aggravating. Positive aggravation is used to be against friends and people finally, negative aggravation is used to be against people who have more socially distant. In effect, he tries to relate politeness variables to aggravation strategies.

1.1.3 Positive Aggravation's Strategies

Lachenicht [6:p.691] states that positive aggravation tries to carry to the recipient (addressee) that the speaker does not need what he wants. The strategies of positive aggravation comprise of:

- 1-Deny Common Ground.
- 2- Convey that h (hearer) is not liked, this strategy consist of ; expressing dislike for the hearer and the hearer's thing , using non-valid imperatives , offending the sensibilities and beliefs of the hearer , wishing of the hearer and using sarcasm .
- 3-Deny in group membership and opinions, this strategy involves, using negative politeness, denying in group status and disclaiming common opinions.
- 4- Convey that the speaker and the hearer are not cooperators. It consists of; showing that not taking the hearer's want into account, within this strategy other strategies as: ignore and interrupt the speech of the hearer, the project of the hearer seems to be disinterest and don't give or ask.
- 5- Deny reflexivity, don't give or ask and use negative politeness.
- 6- Deny the hearer's wants; refuse [9:p.85].

For Lachenicht [6:p.694], sarcasm is considered as an aggravation sub-strategy dropping within the responsibility of the positive aggravation strategy of "Deny common ground" express that *hearer* is not liked'.

1.1.4 Negative Aggravation's Strategies

The concept of negative aggravation tries to impinge upon the hearer (h): The use of strategies indicates an injury the output strategies are to:

- 1- Communicate ability and want to force the hearer.
- 2- Stress and increase the power of the speaker, it includes; Be indirect , use speech of powerful persons, refer to the status and power of the speaker, question , and insist on the hearer to be humble .
- 3- Minimize the power of the hearer, this strategy involves, teasing and baiting, using unsuitable positive politeness, and indebting the hearer and deflate.

4- Force and impinge on the addressee. In this strategy the following notions are used, challenge, challenge indirect way, challenge explicitly, refer to rights and obligations, disagree / contradict.

5 Increase imposition, and imposition weight.

6- Use force and use threats and violence [6:p.694].

For Lachenicht (1980), on the other hand, sarcasm is considered as an aggravation sub-strategy which falls inside the responsibility of the positive aggravation strategy. Likewise, who uses 'inappropriate positive politeness' is, Lachenicht (1980), an aggravation sub-strategy falls within the concern of the negative aggravation strategy of 'Communicate Ability and Want to Coerce the Addressee, Minimize Addressee's Power'[6:p.87].

Lachenicht [6:p.631] asserts that positive aggravation tells the addressee that he is not well liked and will not be collaborated with, and also does not belong to. Basically, it assaults the hearer's need for freedom of action, or for status, and power. Then, it attacks on freedom of action in concerning 'negative' and not 'positive' face. Brown and Levinson [10:p.61] explain that Positive face is the wish that person's wants and needs must be respected by other people, whereas negative face is considered to be the need for 'freedom of action'.

1.2 Data Analysis

1.2.1 The data

The author of "Disgrace's novel" is called Coetzee who was born in 1940. He is the winner of the Booker Prize which is a "bleak tale of human and animal misery" in post-apartheid South Africa in 1999 [11:p.8].

1.2.2 The Novel

Disgrace is a novel written in 1999. Disgrace is one of the significant postcolonial novel to come out of South Africa. David Lurie is one of the main characters in the novel who works in a South African as a professor of English. David is married to two women but then he divorces both. He loses everything: For example, his reputation, his job, his peace of minds, his dreams of artistic success, and finally even his capability to protect his own daughter so he becomes worse. Consequently, he becomes worse and worse after the interlopers attacking them both physically and mentally (Web source 3).

1.3 The Pragmatic Perspectives of Aggravating

The concept of speech acts is regarded as a central to aggravating. Many types of speech acts are distinguished by Searle (1969).

The association between speech acts and aggravation is considered as a central concept in the literary work by using various kinds of speech acts and different strategies of aggravation. Searle's (1969) classifications of speech acts are of direct relevance to aggravation acts and specifically to the data of the study,. These acts are of four kinds classified by Searle as in the following: representative (assert, state), expressive (blaming), declaratives (announce). Speech acts can merely be successfully performed under certain conditions "felicity conditions" which in this event of aggravating, may contain conditions such as collapsing David Lurie's life toward worse since he loses everything in his life.

1.4. The Analysis

In order to elucidate the strategies of aggravation by which the novel interprets “conversational implicature,” in 'Logic and conversation' Grice presents four conversational maxims and the Cooperative Principles (henceforth CP). CP is initiated by the philosopher Paul Grice (1975) in which he describes the communication between people or how they cooperate with each other and he proposes that participants in a conversation follow a common CP (Grice, 1975). The CP runs as follows:

"Make your contribution such as it is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of talk exchange in which you are engaged." This cooperation is explained in four maxims, called Gricean Maxims. According to this view, there are four maxims used by the characters in order to perform their acts. Therefore, the present study deals with the following four conversational maxims: Quantity

a. Make your contribution as informative as is required.

b. Don't make your contribution more informative than is required [12:p.63].

Quality

a- Do not say what you believe to be false.

b-Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

Relation:

a- Be relevant.

Manner:

a-Avoid obscurity of expression.

b-Avoid ambiguity.

c-Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).

An eclectic model is adopted in order to illustrate the pragmatics aspect for example, speech acts, Grice's maxim and rhetorical devices such as irony metaphor that can be used in the novel to clarify the concept of aggravation. These aspects are as follows:

1.4.1 Non-Observance Conversational Maxims

Grice [13:p.49] states that there are many circumstances whereby the speaker fails to observe the maxims. He puts some ways in which participants in a speech conversation may fail to fulfill the maxims. These ways of failing to observe a maxim are: Violating a maxim and flouting a maxim.

Black [14:p.24-25] elucidates that in literary texts, the failure to observe the maxims can take certain forms: (violating a maxim, and flouting).

1. Violation: The speaker is intentionally attempted to mislead the hearer, this act is known as lying [14:p.24-25].

2.Flouting: Grice [13:p.30] illustrates that when the speaker flouts a maxim, he intentionally disobeys the maxim but tries to make the hearer to infer the implicature of the utterance.

1.5 Model of Analysis

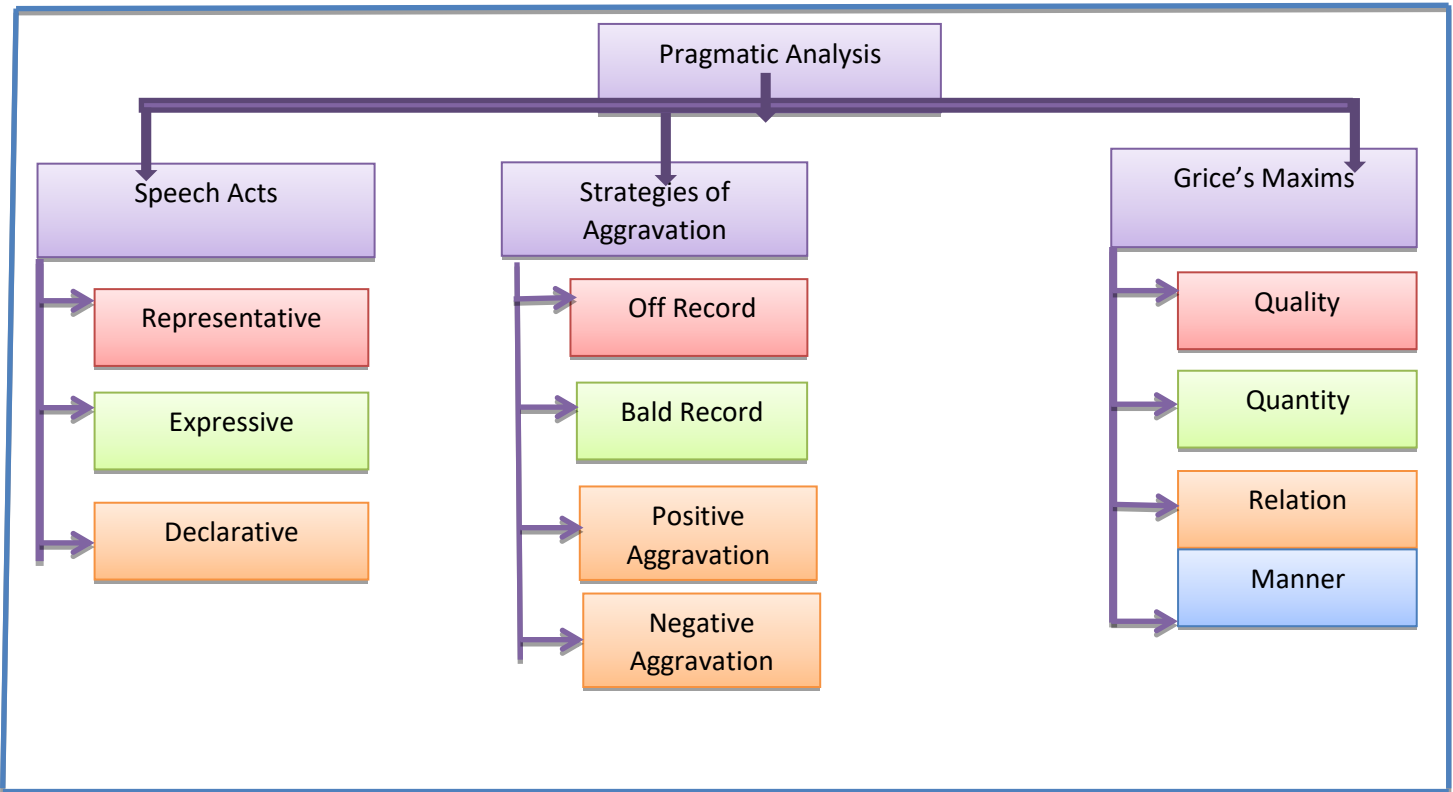


Figure (1) The model of analyzing aggravation pragmatically

1.6 Data Analyses

Text (1)

David. This is my life. I am the one who has to live here. What happened to me is my business, mine alone, not yours, and if there is one right I have it is the right not to be put on trial like this, not to have to justify myself- not to you, not to anyone else.

David Lurie says something about his life how it becomes worse and worse by losing everything in his life such as, his job, so his life is aggravated toward worse and worse.

Speech Representative: Assertion

David asserts that he loses everything in his life, so his life is aggravated more and more.

Strategies of Aggravating

-Bald on Record

David directly speaks about his life.

-Positive Aggravation

David finds himself committed to and makes himself fall down and his life is aggravated. He says that he is not liked and will not be co-operated with others.

-Negative Aggravation

David feels that his social position and his social status are attacked when he loses everything in his life.

Grice Maxim:**1-The Quantity Maxim**

Lurie violates the maxim of quantity because he talks too much about his life aggravation. Thus, his contribution is more informative than is required.

2- The Quality Maxim

In this maxim, Lurie is truthful in saying something about his life with adequate evidence by saying how his life is aggravated.

3-The Relevance Maxim:

Lurie is relevant to the same subject due to the fact that he sticks to one topic which *aggravates* his life and becomes worse.

4-The Manner Maxim:

David Lurie violates the manner maxim because he is not brief in his speech.

Text (2)

Lurie does not understand what is happening to him. Until now He has been more or less indifferent to animals. Although in an Abstract way he disapproves of cruelty, he cannot tell whether by Nature he is cruel or kind. He is simply nothing.

Lurie asserts that he does not know what happens to his life that makes him worse and cruel and why his life is aggravated more and more.

Speech act: Expressive (blame): David blames himself about what has been happened to his life.

Strategies of Aggravating**-Off Record**

David's speech is not clear he speaks indirectly in order to describe his life. He says that the nature that makes his life worse.

-Positive Aggravation

David finds himself committed to and he makes himself falls down and his life is aggravated. He says that he is not liked and will not be co-operated with others.

Grice Maxim**1-The Quantity Maxim**

The maxim of quantity is violated in the utterance "*He has been more or less indifferent to animals. Although in an Abstract way he disapproves of cruelty, he cannot tell whether*" David's contribution is more informative than is required.

2- The Quality Maxim

This maxim also is violated by David because he is not truthful in his speech. He says "*Nature he is cruel or kind. He is simply nothing*". He illustrates that the nature aggravates his life.

3-The Relevance Maxim

David's speech is not related to one topic so that he violates the relevance maxim. He talks about his life then he shifts to blame the nature that makes him loses everything.

4-The Manner Maxim

This maxim is flouted by David because he is not brief and orderly.

Text (3)

You have lost your job, your name is mud, your Friends avoid you; you hide out in Torrance Road like a tortoise Afraid to stick its neck out of its shell.

In this speech, David Lurie loses everything, his job, his friends and even his name.

Speech act: Declarative (announce). He declares that he loses everything in his life even his name.

Strategies of Aggravating**-Off Record**

David's speech is not clear he speaks indirectly in order to describe his life. He says that his life is just life the tortoise life.

-Positive Aggravation

David finds himself committed to and he makes himself falls down and his life is aggravated. He says that he is not liked and will not be co-operated with others.

-Negative Aggravation

David feels that his social position and his social status are attacked when he loses everything in his life.

Grice Maxim:**1-The Quantity Maxim:**

David violates this maxim because his contribution is more informative as it is required about his life in that he loses everything.

2- The Quality Maxim:

In this maxim, Lurie says something about his life with adequate evidence by declaring how his life is aggravated.

3-The Relevance Maxim:

Lurie's speech is not related to one topic by talking about, his job and his friends so that he violates the relevance maxim.

4-The Manner Maxim:

David flouts the manner maxim because he is not brief and an ambiguous in his speech.

Text (4)

You are going to end up as one of those sad Old men who poke around in rubbish bins.' 'I'm going to end up in a hole in the ground,' he says.

In this speech, David reaches to the end as an old man in his life and how his life becomes more aggravation and more worse.

Speech act: Representative (stating) . He states that he reaches to the end of his life.

Strategies of Aggravating**-Off Record**

David's speech is not clear he speaks indirectly in order to describe his life. He says that his life becomes like the old man who lives in "*rubbish bins*".

-Positive Aggravation

David finds himself committed to and he makes himself falls down and his life is aggravated. He says that he is not liked and will not be co-operated with others.

Grice Maxim**1-The Quantity Maxim:**

David's contribution is informative as it is required. He says enough information about his falling.

2- The Quality Maxim:

In this maxim, Lurie says something about his life with adequate evidence by stating how his life is aggravated.

3-The Relevance Maxim:

Lurie's speech is related to one topic by talking about his life.

4-The Manner Maxim:

David speaks briefly in describing his state. So, he is brief and orderly in his speech.

Text (5)

'You didn't protect her last time.'

Petrus smears more grease over the pipe.

'You say you know what happened, but you didn't protect her

Last time,' he repeats.

In this speech, Petrus talks with David about his daughter and how David's life becomes worse even if he loses his ability to protect his daughter (Lucy).

Speech act: Expressive (blame). Petrus blames David that he is not protect his daughter by repeating his words in order to show him that he is the reason behind losing his daughter.

Strategies of Aggravating**-Bald on Record**

Petrus directly speaks about David's daughter and how he does not protect her.

-Positive Aggravation

Petrus finds David committed to that he cannot protect his daughter.

Grice Maxim**1-The Quantity Maxim:**

Petrus violates this maxim because his contribution is more informative than is required.

2- The Quality Maxim:

In this maxim, Petrus says something about David's life with adequate evidence by blaming him how he does not able to protect his daughter after his life is aggravated.

3-The Relevance Maxim:

Petrus's speech is related to one topic by talking about Lurie's daughter.

4-The Manner Maxim:

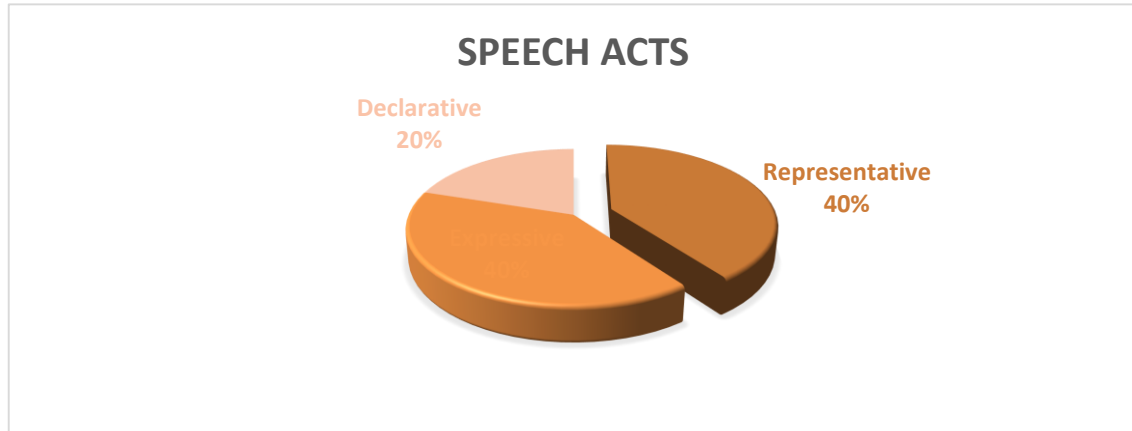
Petrus talks about Lucy's life in orderly way.

1.7 Results

The following table shows the frequencies of speech acts in Coetzee's Disgrace novel

Table (1) The Frequencies and Percentages of Speech Acts Used

No.	Speech Acts	Frequency	Percentage
1	Representative	2	40%
2	Expressive	2	%40
3	Declarative	1	%20
Total		5	%100

*Figure (2) Speech Acts*

The results above, in the table (1) and in the figure (2), show that the character Pertus uses representative and expressive speech acts more than the other types of declarative. They are amounted the same percentage (%40).

The following table shows the frequencies and percentages of strategies of aggravation in Coetzee's Disgrace novel

Table (2) The Frequencies and Percentages of the Strategies of Aggravation

No.	Strategies of Aggravation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Off record	3	%25
2	Bald record	2	%16.16
3	Positive Aggravation	5	%41.66
4	Negative aggravation	2	%25
		12	%100

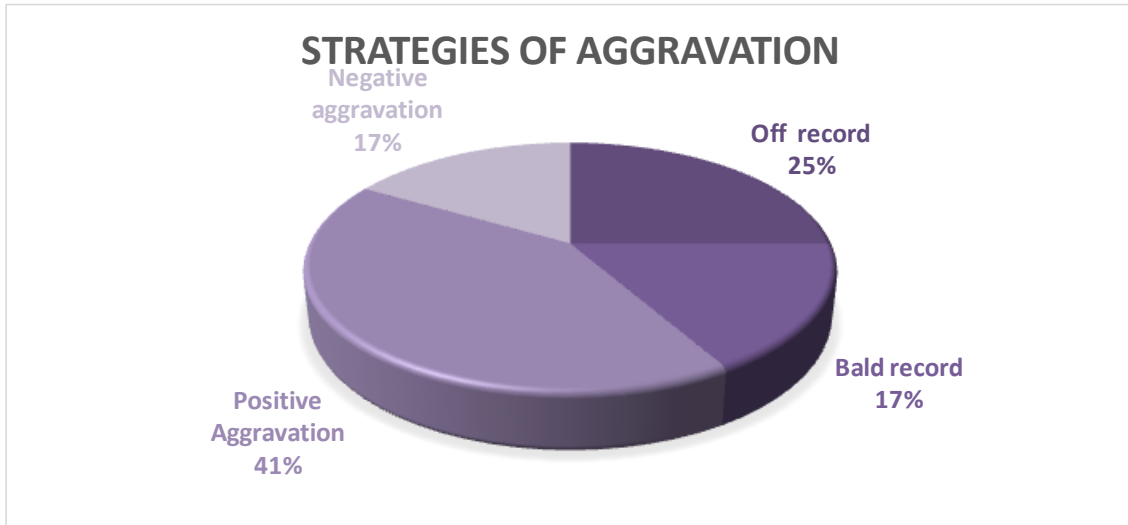


Figure (3) Strategies of Aggravation

According to the above results, the strategies of aggravation, positive aggravation is the more highly used than other strategies of aggravation by the characters, it receives (%41.66).

The following table shows the frequencies and percentages of Conversational maxims in Coetzee's Disgrace novel:

Table (2) The Frequencies and Percentages of Conversational Maxims

No.	Maxims	Fr.	Per.
1	Quantity	4	%40
2	Quality	1	%10
3	Relevance	2	%20
4	Manner	3	%30
Total		10	%100

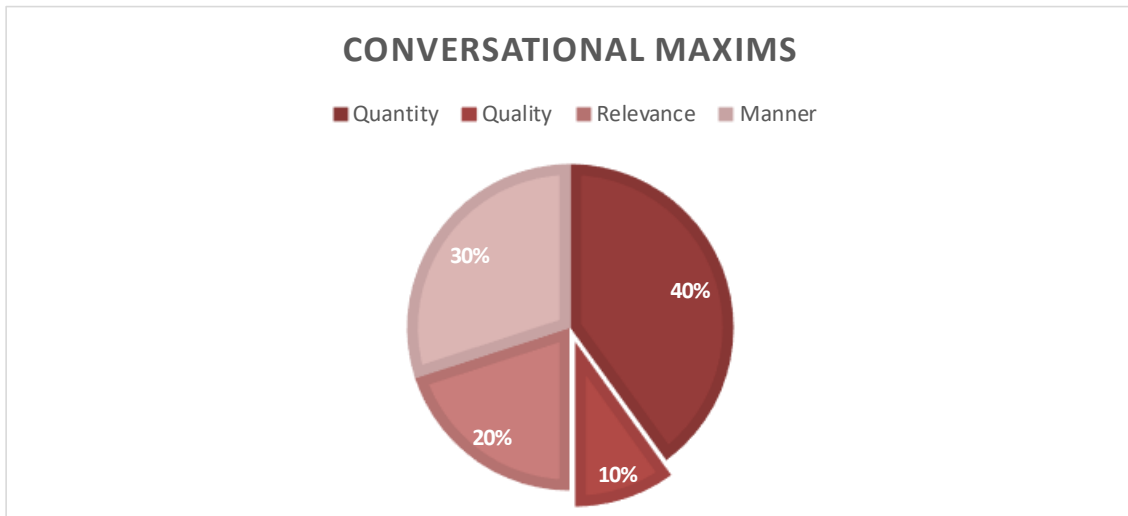


Figure (4) Conversational Maxims

Finally, the maxim of quantity is the more frequently non-observed by the characters, it is amounted (%40) percentage.

1.8 Conclusions

It is concluded that:

- 1-Speech acts of representative, declarative, and expressive are used in Disgrace novel. So, the success of a speech act focuses on the speaker's ability to perform a speech act that should be understandable and successful.
- 2-Strategies of aggravation are utilized by the characters in order to show how the characters aggravate their life from worse to worse especially Davis.
- 2-The analysis shows the role of conversational maxims and it's real significant in analyzing all the texts that are chosen, therefore the use of these maxims are to make the communication effective.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

There are no conflicts of interest

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