

## ABSTRACT

AYUNINGTYAS, PAULINA A. F. (2026). **The Concept of Friendship through Nico De Varona's Off-Record Strategies toward Libby Rhodes in Olivie Blake's *The Atlas Six***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

A relationship needs communication to make it work. The indirect way of conveying a message is also helpful to define the relationship between parties. The concept of friendship is interesting to discuss when the parties involved claim to be rivals. In a book about a journey full of intrinsics, Nico and Libby are on their unique dynamic from rivals to friends. However, their relationship as friends is defined through Nico's utterances, implications, off-record strategies, and his understanding of Libby.

To achieve the goal of the study, two questions are formulated. First, what are the off-record strategies used by Nico de Varona toward Libby Rhodes? Second, how to define the concept of friendship between Nico and Libby based on Nico's off-record strategies?

Grice's cooperative principle and conversational implicature are used to discover whether Nico's utterances violate or flout the maxim, as well as to discover the implied meaning of Nico's utterances. Then, Brown and Levinson's off-record strategy is applied based on the finding of violating and flouting the maxim and its implied meaning. Lastly, Levinson's Deixis is applied to define the concept of friendship between Nico and Libby.

Nico understands Libby better because he puts a lot of effort into delivering his message in a way that avoids Libby's suspicion and guarantees the success that Libby understands what he implied. The indirect message shows that Nico violates and flouts the maxim of quality and relation a lot. It portrays how much he expects Libby to understand and, at the same time, maintain his secret from her. His understanding of Libby's character affects which off-record strategy he chose. Their concept of friendship is shown based on their understanding of any references used by the other person when delivering the messages.

**Keywords:** *cooperative principle, deixis, flouting and violating maxim, off-record strategy, cross-sex friendship*

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Sebuah hubungan membutuhkan komunikasi untuk tetap berjalan. Menyampaikan pesan secara tersirat juga membantu mendefinisikan relasi antara dua orang. Konsep pertemanan juga menarik untuk diteliti ketika dua orang yang terlibat mengaku sebagai rival. Dari sebuah buku yang memiliki plot penuh intrik, relasi antara Nico de Varona dan Libby Rhodes menjadi unik karena hubungan mereka yang berawal dari rival menjadi teman. Relasi mereka akan diteliti melalui ucapan Nico, implikasi di dalamnya, strategi *off-record*, dan pemahamannya terhadap Libby.

Untuk mencapai tujuan akhir dari studi, dua pertanyaan diformulasikan. Pertama, apa *off-record* strategi yang digunakan Nico de Varona terhadap Libby Rhodes? Kedua, bagaimana mendefinisikan konsep pertemanan antara Nico dan Libby berdasarkan *off-record* strategi yang digunakan oleh Nico?

Teori *Cooperative Principle* dan *Conversational Implicature* dari Grice akan digunakan untuk menemukan makna tersirat dari ucapan Nico. Kemudian, peneliti mengaplikasikan teori strategi *off-record* milik Brown dan Levinson berdasarkan makna tersirat yang telah ditemukan. Terakhir, teori *deixis* dari Levinson diaplikasikan untuk mendefinisikan konsep pertemanan antara Nico dan Libby.

Pemahaman Nico tentang Libby cukup dalam karena ia bisa memutuskan untuk mengeluarkan lebih banyak energi agar terhindar dari kecurigaan Libby setiap ia berusaha melaksanakan rencananya. Pesan tersirat lewat *flouting* dan *violating quality* dan *relation maxim* yang cukup sering digunakan. Ini menggambarkan betapa Nico berharap Libby memahami intensi Nico ketika terlibat dalam percakapan dan di waktu yang bersamaan, ia bisa menjaga rahasianya. Pemahaman Nico terhadap Libby memengaruhi strategi *off-record* yang digunakan. Konsep pertemanan mereka terlihat dari cara mereka memahami referensi yang digunakan pihak lain ketika ingin menyampaikan intensinya.

**Keywords:** *cooperative principle, deixis, flouting and violating maxim, off-record strategy, cross-sex friendship*