

# Thematic Analysis Of The Novel "Flights" By Olga Tokarczuk Using The Pragma-Stylistics Approach

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## Abstract

Pragma-Stylistics combines stylistics with a pragmatic component. When researching the stylistic potential of a language, or specific structure, or examining a specific text, Pragma-Stylistics pays attention to the qualities that a speaker may select from a range of acceptable forms in the same language that is semantically similar but perform distinct purposes in various ways. Pragma-Stylistics provides a n explanation that is more comprehensive because stylistics and pragmatics alone are unable to explain many previously unexplained events. As an emerging field, Pragma-Stylistics is very effective in analyzing the various literary genres, particularly the Novel.

The current research is to ascertain the thematic significance while implying different stylistic devices to add-on to the pragmatic aspects of the novel Flight by Olga Tokarczuk. The Flights is a fragmented novel by Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk. Jennifer Croft translated the work into English. It has 116 vignettes. The researcher utilized effectively Grice and Sort Model (2007) model. In the use of the Grice and Short model in Fiction a practical checklist of pragma-stylistics is offered. This model enables us to collect data on a systematic basis. The list is split into four categories and subdivisions. This model helps to find out the themes and their pragmatic effects heightened by pragma-stylistics devices. The results show the importance of these concepts to understand as well as to appreciate them. This study has extended the scope and validated that Pragma- Stylistics is more comprehensive in analyzing the literary text where stylistics and pragmatics alone are unable to explain many previously unexplained events, themes, and meanings. The Pragma-Stylistics did it explicitly.

**Keywords:** Pragma-Stylistics, Thematic analysis, Stylistic devices

## 1 Introduction

The Pragma-Stylistic method of meaning is a language strategy that emphasizes the speaker's intended

meaning as well as his or her distinctive style. Individual modes of expression are seen to be different and so have characteristics that distinguish

them from others. The research looked at the linguistic actions that appear in Olga Tokarczuk's first book, *Flights*, using a pragma-stylistic approach to meaning.

Pragma-Stylistics combines stylistics with a pragmatic component. When researching the stylistic potential of a language or a specific structure, or examining a specific text, pragma-stylistics pays attention to the qualities that a speaker may pick, or has selected, from a range of acceptable forms in the same language that is semantically, or truth conditionally, similar but perform or achieve distinct purposes or do so in various ways. To put it another way, the targeted outcomes (expressive, affective, attitudinal, etc.) determine the communicative qualities sought (clarity, efficacy, etc.) Pragma-stylistics provides explanations that are more comprehensive because stylistics and pragmatics alone are unable to explain many previously unexplained events. This study will show how stylistics and pragmatic components co-determine the surface form of utterances, which lends itself to pragma-stylistics analysis, by looking at a variety of novel texts.

According to Leech (G. Leech, 2016), pragmatic analysis of language aims to explore the element of meaning that is generated from how utterances are used and how they connect to the context in which they are uttered, rather than the formal qualities of words and structures (as in semantics). Pragmatics is defined as a theory of appropriateness in this definition. In its most basic form, stylistics is defined as "the study of style" by Babajide

(Abuya, 2012). He goes on to say that 'style is the effectiveness of a way of expression,' as defined by Davy and Crystal (1983). (BOSSAN, OYEDEJI, & Studies, 2017). As a result, we might say that stylistics is the philosophy of effectiveness, while pragmatics is the theory of appropriateness. Through stylistic elements, the Pragma –Stylistics approach to novel study examines themes and meaning for appropriateness and effectiveness.

### 1.1 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to examine and work out the field of pragma-stylistics in literary texts, specifically novels. As a result, it strives to demonstrate how pragmatic theories are used aesthetically to attain literary writers' goals and reflect their perceptions. The current research is an attempt to ascertain the thematic significance while implying different stylistic devices to add-on to pragmatic aspects of the novel *Flight* by Olga Tokarczuk. It will be highlighted by identifying the stylistic devices. The *Flights* is a fragmented novel by Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk. *Bieguni* was the title of the first Polish edition. Jennifer Croft translated the work into English. The original Polish title was about runaways, a sect of Old Believers who believe that being in constant mobility is a ruse to evade sinfully.

### 1.2 The rationale of the Problem

Hickey (Leo Hickey, 1993) described this term compared with both stylistics and pragmatics as:

- Stylistics asks: How do you say?

- Pragmatics asks: What do you do?
- Pragma-stylistics will inquire, "How are you doing?"

To analyze a precise text, it pays a different consideration to individuals' structures in which utterances would be semantically analyzed; meaning may differ in linguistics forms and especially in the appropriate order. Among all literary genres, Novel is still an area less explored in the study of style despite having sufficient potential for such investigation. Modern novels are very diversified and innovative in terms of stylistics and pragmatics. The novel under consideration is much celebrated but less dissected to understand. As the original text is in Polish and the English version is translated later, so its themes, settings, and stuff need a different approach to be understood.

### 1.3 Research Objectives

The main objectives of this study are:

- To analyze the usage of stylistic devices for conveying meaning.
- To identify the pragmatic effects by using stylistic devices.

### 1.4 Research Questions

The current study will answer the following questions:

- a. How do stylistic devices convey different meanings in a literary text?
- b. How are stylistic devices employed to achieve pragmatic effects in the novel?

## 2 Previous Study

In the last couple of decades, it has been observed that research in the field of languages and conversation revealed that the studies in these disciplines are more tilted towards research in the field of pragmatics. In 1962, it was developed by the work of Austin in the study of speech acts (Austin, 1962). In 1975, H.P. Grice worked on logic and conversation which also caused to develop of cooperative principles in conversations (Sacks et al., 1978). These principles are also known as Gricean's Maxims. These works are dealt with within pragmatics.

The effectiveness of pragmatic notions in the study of literary writings has been first emphasized by Pratt (Pratt, 1977). Hickey (Leo Hickey, 1993) states that stylistics has recently been moving towards pragmatics in pursuit of looking for justifications on behalf of features of linguistic usage that the former is incapable of accounting for. For Chapman (Chapman, Wilson, Gorton, & Infection, 2013) the different concepts and frameworks developed within pragmatics provide useful tools for analyzing literary texts. Hence, the increasing attention to language use within linguistics has allowed for importance in the linguistic analysis of literature not just on the formal properties of literary texts but on their contextual and intersexual properties.

Out of the several models of stylistics, Crystal, and Davy's (1969) and Leech and Short's (2007) models are influential ones. Yet, these two models lack a pragmatic component which renders them inadequate as Pragma-Stylistic models unless they are

modified to be related to the pragmatic component and the context which governs producing the target piece of discourse.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, stylisticians presented the importance of dialogues in literature. With the objective analysis of dialogues in linguistics, stylistics uses different scientific approaches and techniques, which are essential for linguistics structure, function, and purpose to talk about the deeper knowledge of a text. It is very helpful in comprehensive to understand a text. It can be altered or related to interest in literary discourse. Discourse makes a structure of naturally occurring language in context.

In 1989, Cook elaborated on the main elements of pragmatics. These elements cause stretches of language to the physical, social, and psychological world with discourse. To understand any literary text, he presented the overlapping relationship of pragmatics and discourse analysis. In which he presented pragmatics and discourse analysis according to time, the world, language, and thought.

### **3 Research Methodology**

Present study has the amalgam or combination of inductive-deductive reasoning that is logical and descriptive in nature. It is text-based research. The text is in fragmentary pieces. All texts of the chapters of the novel are having different topics. Current study is based on the conversational implicatures suggested or explained by Grice in the speeches of the characters or character. The narrator in the text of the novel is taken

as variable. Scenarios, contextual meaning, underlying connection of situations, words / statements, surface and deep meanings in social and psychological contexts are independent variables in the present research design. The element of objectivity has been given special attention to avoid any sort of ambiguity in relation to dependent variables.

#### **3.1 Research Method**

The research frame makes use of eclectic approach to gather data and assess its systematically keeping in view the conversational implicatures suggested or explained by Grice in speech or talk. The current research design is qualitative in nature as the text of the novel is analyzed and interpreted by applying conversational model to explore the true meanings of the text.

#### **3.2 Selection of Sample**

It is difficult to assess the text of the novel thoroughly in just single research. The text of the novel is complicated in nature. The complexity of the text makes it difficult to analyze it in one sitting or reading. The researcher makes use of non-random sampling to select the text from the novel. The researcher selects the most appropriate chapters from the novel which employ conversational implicatures. The current research frame employs purposive selection about text sampling. For that reason, the non-random sampling technique is suitable and seems to be appropriate.

#### **3.3 Sample Size**

The stretches in the texts are termed transactions. The research focuses on the practical aspects of Grice's model of conversational behavior. The researcher put maximum effort to select the text, which has wholeness of conversation to fulfill and meet the needs of the research design to deduce implied meanings of the text.

### **3.4 Ordering of the Samples in Data Analysis**

A flight is a fragmented novel by Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk. *Bieguni* was the title of the first Polish edition. Jennifer Croft translated the work into English. The original Polish title was about runaways, a sect of Old Believers who believe that being in constant mobility is a ruse to evade sinfully. The researcher selected the chapters from the novel in a way to explore the conversational behavior that has underlying connection with interdependent variables. The surface meaning and implied meanings of the text are to be analyzed to understand the character outwardly and inwardly. The lines have also been mentioned from the text of the novel for proper understanding. The researcher mentioned the text from start of the chapter to end. In original text, there is no numbering of lines.

This research is descriptive research in which the objective is to describe the themes used in the novel. The nature of this work is not to test and to prove but to explore and to describe. As a descriptive one, this research is primarily qualitative. The data collected is in the form of words. This qualitative data consists of the actual

text selected from the 04 vignettes of novel and detailed description of the employed themes with background of various situation, events, people, interaction, experiences, attitudes, beliefs, thoughts, and they make clear that they help to present researcher's ideas and make them effective for the readers.

### **3.5 Method and Tools**

The researcher has used a mixed approach to collect and analyze data. The study is essentially qualitative, as the novel has been analyzed by thematic exploration and interpretation by the application of a model of Leech and Short's (2007). The qualitative data is also presented quantitatively where necessary as well as the findings have been presented statistically.

### **3.6 Grice's Model of Conversational Implicatures**

Many linguists have proposed the Model of Conversational implicatures. The present research design employs the Grice's model of Cooperative principles to analyze and apply the role of implicatures with reference to conversation and collaborative activity that requires or expects from its contributors to follow the general principle of cooperation.

For that reason, Grice suggested four maxims of cooperative principles. These are:

1. Maxim of quantity
2. Maxim of quality
3. Maxim of relation
4. Maxim of manner

Maxim of quantity requires its participants to being precise in the details of the conversation. It flouts

when information is bulk in amount and exceeds the limits. Maxim of quality is that the speaker or conversation should be true with evidence. It flouts when conversation lacks evidence. Maxim of relation requires its participant to be relevant while saying something. It flouts when conversation includes irrelevant and unnecessary details. Maxim of manner demands its speakers to be clear and orderly in their conversations. It flouts when complications and ambiguity have in conversation.

#### 4 Data Analysis

Researcher is going to apply Leech and Short model of fiction for analysis of the novel *Flights* text. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are used to analyze the data. Therefore, two types of tables have been tabulated to present the data i.e.,  
 Analysis of the Text  
 Text: See Annexure  
 AContext:

#### 1 HERE I AM

Grecian Maxim	Symbols	Flout Frequency
Maxim of quantity	♠	05
Maxim of quality	¥	04
Maxim of relation	α	01
Maxim of manner	ƒ	01

The figures indicate that maxim of quantity and maxim of quality have flouted at a large scale as compared to Maxim of relation and Maxim of manner where flouting remained just 1 & 1. The flouting of the maxim of

qualitative as well as quantitative. The first table shows the actual model of Leech and Short's (2007) model of fiction analysis but with selective, gray-shaded categories which best serve the purpose of the researcher whereas the second table shows the selected themes in the novel, stylistics devices employed to heighten the effects and significance of these highlighting themes and frequency of the utilized stylistic devices. The samples have been selected theme-wise, randomly but purposely. Theme-wise sampling is grouped as annexures. Every annexure is dedicated to a single theme and is comprised of three (03) samples relevant to that theme. The symbols used for themes as well as stylistic devices are shown below in **table no 4.2 given below.**

quantity and quality is 5 and 4 respectively. The flouting of the maxim of quantity shows that the writer explains things or happening an unnecessary and needless manner that shakes the readers even. Maxims of

quantity and quality clearly depict the intention of the writer where She wants to draw the attention of the readers towards salvation. The writer explains that moving is linked in both ways outwardly and inwardly; it is to move in the world or to move with one's own internal eye. Maxim of relation and manner are in use 1&1 reflect that apparently the text and character show the least connectivity in terms of thoughts. In fact, this journey is supposed to be incomplete isolation as "Flights" a sect claims

salvation is only in isolation. Flights the fragmented noel offers daring adventures. The daring adventures in the novel "Flight" lie in nonlinear narrations for the readers. It is full of senses like odd and surreal. The chapter "Here I Am" represents the approach and thoughts of the writer in the true sense. The flouts of manners do not judge statements in terms of desires to enclose or rail the ongoing conversation in a natural dimension with the view to analyze that what is the outcome of the conversation.

**Table 1: Flouts on Maxims & Implicates in sample 01**

Line No.	Flout on Maxim	Implicatures
Theme:1, Pg.83,84 Lines: 1-16	Quality (rhetorical statement)	The spirit of originality and evidence lacks
	Manner (with less clarity)	Not clear and orderly
	Relation (Not relevant)	Diversion in terms of details
	Quantity (prolixity)	Difficult and inexplicit statements

When the maxims in conversations flout there always occur calculated implicatures. Their floating statement in terms of quality does not depict the real or true situation of the narrator. The language is literal which shakes the minds of the readers. There is no proper evidence of the talk the narrator has. It is a journey from outwards to inwards. The novel, "Flights" represents the thoughts of a particular Christian sect that the possibility of salvation is only in separation. The flouting of manner is also visible in the narration of the chapter "Here I Am". The statements lack clarity. The talk of the narrator is ambiguous. It is not clear and orderly. The text apparently

looks to travel us of the world rather it will be intoxicating with the amalgam of inertia. The reflection of troubled feelings creates complications as the narrator talks about the river, his/her presence and discussion about weather and intensity of the dark. The other quantity flouting is obvious in inexplicit statements, which ordinary readers can hardly grasp properly. Prolonged elaboration with complicated expressions makes it difficult to grasp the narrator. Her yearning for salvation in isolation makes the readers perplexed which flouting maxims of quantity, manner and relation clearly indicate. The implicatures in the narration transport

the readers to a completely different phenomenon.

## 2 SYNDROMES

Grecian Maxim	Symbols	Flout Frequency
Maxim of quantity	♠	04
Maxim of quality	¥	01
Maxim of relation	α	03
Maxim of manner	₹	01

The table indicates flout frequency of maxim of quantity appears in the concerned chapter” Syndrome” 4 times to depict that the information is more than required. It has a lot of explanations of the subject that led the readers towards the confusion. The role of the maxim of the quality flouting remains just once (01). The narration related to the given topic or subject appears with evidence most probably once. The explanations and discussions related to the syndrome remain complicated and long in nature. The flouting intensity in the chapter persists 03 times to show the connection with the deeper ideas of the

writer. The writer tries to create the relation of the text with his beliefs and thoughts related to the outward journey towards the inward journey of the soul and human body then it tries to lead towards the ultimate goal of having salvation. The flout frequency in terms of manner appears once which reflects the order and clarity of the text to convey a particular message of salvation in isolation to make the human body and soul pure. The novel, “Flights” intertwines thoughts related to moving and traveling with an in-depth traversing of the human body and soul.

**Table 2: Flouts on Maxims & Implicatures in sample 02**

Line No.	Flout on Maxim	Implicatures
Theme: 2, Pg.84-86 Lines: 1-17	Quality (inexplicit statement)	Devoid of proper evidence
	Quality (oblique and not clear)	Not clear assumption based of suppositions
	Quality (no clarity with proof)	Uncertainty in talks
	Quantity (more informative)	Redundant details
	Relation (not essential)	Diversion in relevant talks



	Manner (lacks clarity)	Devoid of coherence
	Quantity (prolixity)	Unnecessary length of details and discussions
	Quantity (more information)	Prolonged details

The table depicts that mostly flouting occurs in conversations or discussions pertaining to quantity. The loose plot and explanations present redundant details in the chapter “Syndrome”. The quantity floating displays those unnecessary details in terms of syndrome on the surface level reflecting that the plot is loose and hardly shows the proper grip of the narrator. Whereas on a deeper level or in-depth the narrator tries to connect humanity to the process of salvation that happens in isolation to purify the human body and soul. The elements of prolixity in quantity flouting are

common in the chapter and the text. The unnecessary length of details and discussions makes the readers confused about the text and the in-depth message of the writer. The flouting in terms of quality lacks evidence and there is obvious as talks are uncertain and fragmentary. There is hardly proper coherence in the narration which reveals the manner of flouting in the text. The text of the novel is tricky and the function of the text is to stir curiosity in the readers. The journey in the text is frustrating for the readers as it seems to be without any destination.

### 3. SEVEN YEARS OF TRIPS

Grecian Maxim	Symbols	Flout Frequency
Maxim of quantity	♠	01
Maxim of quality	¥	03
Maxim of relation	α	NIL
Maxim of manner	₹	NIL

The table shows that the flouting frequency in the text in terms of quantity appears once the narrator starts giving an explanation of the in-depth journey under the cover of “Seven Years of Trips”. The writer elaborates on the implied meaning with details which makes it difficult for the readers to grasp it properly. The

flouting frequency of maxim of quality appears three times in the text. According to the maxim of quality, the narrator remains relevant to the text with certain evidence. The maxim of relation and maxim of manners have zero flouting frequency in the text. Apparently, the author talks about the journey in the world but in an in-depth

exploration, he directs the journey of the human body towards purification by following the real law of salvation.

**Table 3: Flouts on Maxims & Implicatures in sample 03 (SEVEN YEARS OF TRIPS)**

Line No.	Flout on Maxim	Implicatures
Theme: 3, Pg.86-87 Lines: 1-7	Quantity (prolixity)	Passionate expression
	Relation (irrelevant)	Change of subject
	Quantity (lacks evidence + more informative)	The bulk of details and discussion to make subject confused + not having evidence

The implicatures about flouting on the maxim of quantity reveal that the element of prolixity remains obvious in the text where the author deviates from the subject and topic repeatedly. The tendency of the text is religious as the author belongs to a Christian sect that has the belief that purification of the human soul and body depends upon salvation in isolation. The flout on the maxim of relation is also there in the chapter where the author

breaks connection within the text and deviates from the subject. The deviations in the text implied other intended meanings as well. The religious tendency of the author leads the reader towards the in-depth exploration of reality and the true existence of human beings. The flouting of the maxims in the chapter makes it difficult for the readers to get the implied meaning or message of the author.

#### 4 GUIDANCE FROM CIORAN

Grecian Maxim	Symbols	Flout Frequency
Maxim of quantity	♠	03
Maxim of quality	¥	01
Maxim of relation	α	Nil
Maxim of manner	₣	01

The table indicates that the flouting frequency of maxim of quantity persists thrice in the chapter as compared to the maxim of quality and

manner. Both maxims of quality and manner appear once equally. Whereas the floating frequency of relation remains nil. The author presents

flouting frequency of quantity to express his in-depth exploration of salvation and points out the issues of suffering, and decay. By having flouting frequency of manner in the text the author wants to highlight the meaninglessness and pointlessness of life. The religious tendency and inclination of the author is obvious. He rewards Bible for drawing the attention of the people that real

salvation and purification exist in following it. The way the author mentions the Greek philosopher and slowly takes the conversation back to the Bible shows that the author is pointing to the same religious tendency. Which people have forgotten, to which they do not wish to sing, and the author wishes that they should return to the path of the Bible.

#### Flouts on Maxims & Implicatures in sample 04 (GUIDANCE FROM CIORAN)

Line No.	Flout on Maxim	Implicatures
Theme:4 , Pg.87-88 Lines: 1-7	Quantity (prolixity)	Explanations are expression are more than requirements
	Quantity (unnecessarily explained)	Exaggeration in details
	Quality (rhetorical question) Quantity (prolonged	Loss of faith in terms of originality

The implicatures that the author applies in the text reveal that most of the implicatures are related flouts of the maxim of quantity. Even in this article, the author has again expressed his religious tendency. Apparently, he is talking about the same philosophy with the people one day, because this Greek philosopher has also mentioned the problems and difficulties in life. The author wishes to bring people back to the Bible by mentioning that the only and the only solution to all the problems and worries that people are suffering from. Their solution and salvation can be found in the Bible so you can travel all over the world to observe things created by God. Do the actions and deeds as you want to see the solace and happiness in your life

and hereafter. For the solution of your problems and for the forgiveness of your sins you will have to follow the biblical path again so that you can spend your life in the true sense. You're Pain and all kinds of worries could be removed just to follow the teachings. Prolixity of the author for implied meaning is obvious in the chapter "GUIDANCE FROM CIORAN". The author explains it in a prolonged way.

#### 5 CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

The preceding novel is comprised of random but purposely selected samples from all 116 vignettes of the novel *Flights* by Olga Tokarczuk and these samples are analyzed as per research requirements. In this final

chapter-5, conclusions, finds, and recommendations are given. There are four (04) themes selected and five Pragma- Stylistics devices are spotted in the text. In this chapter, under the two main headings, conclusion and recommendation are given. Two tables are maintained as per different factors involved in this research. The table with requisite data analysis is presented below.

In each story, the desire for everlasting life and the essence of human existence are at the center of the narrative. Flights' protagonists and the novel's narrator are drawn into an unending, restless investigation of humankind's exterior and internal worlds, rejecting the Cartesian separation between body and soul as they go about their business. In between each story, which leads the reader on a winding journey through time and space—or, as Tokarczuk defines it, "the archipelago of time," the reader is exposed to other pilgrims who have a wide range of interests, with many devoting their investigations to the human body. However, one of the overarching themes is that, like the epic journey of the hero Odysseus in "the Odyssey," which the writer alludes to in several vignettes, the real traveler does not go on merely vacations of circular trips, living lives of repetition, but instead is constantly in motion, moving forward through linear time in a form of quest, which is one of the overarching themes of the novel. As a result, the name "pilgrim" was coined. "I understand I am trapped," the narrator says in the first vignette, and travelers varied in their degree of being

hampered by items that tie them down, such as the frog the narrator dissected earlier in the book (2). Being free of these encumbrances, which include mental, bodily, and spiritual ones, permits a being to wander through life with greater.

### **5.1 Discussion with Conclusion**

This research work established the fact that Pragma-Stylistics field is more comprehensive with respect to pragmatics and stylistics individually because pragmatics is concerned with what speaker / writer intend and listener / reader understand based on various other factors. While stylistics is the study of and interpretation of text and speech with respect to style. Pragma-stylistics blends both; it focuses on the intended meaning conveyed in with stylistics components thus enhance the overall comprehension.

### **Recommendations**

From the time it was written till now, this work has been the subject of much research. The fact that it is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies in literature is unquestionable, yet there is still more to say. Furthermore, the researchers urge that further studies be conducted in order to study more literary works by Miller and other current writers in light of Grice's concept of Implicatures in order to further their findings. The researcher discovered a few intriguing features of this issue that are currently undetected and unexplored by the general public. They may be quite beneficial in understanding discourse analysis for

the purposes of future study. It may look something like this:

- i. Conversational implicatures (conversational implication)
- ii. Foregrounding and parallelism are important concepts to understand.
- iii. Foregrounding and parallelism are used in this section.

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