

A Reexamination of Doctor- patient communication in the Gricean maxims model

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This paper examines how a doctor- patient communicative encounter benefits from the cooperative principles in the the Gricean theory of Conversational implicature. The encounter is given a pragmatic analysis using the four maxims of the cooperative principle. Exploring literature on doctor patient communication encounters in its social-cultural context, the paper concludes that inasmuch as the maxims: quality, quantity, relation and manner are adhered to, there are incidences where the parties involved tend to become 'uncooperative' depending on the social circumstance of the patient and the professional and privileged position of the doctor.