



**FLOUTING GRICEAN MAXIMS AS A SOURCE OF
HUMOR IN EMMA SELIGMAN'S *BOTTOMS* (2023)**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring Linguistics in English Department,
Faculty of Humanities Universitas Diponegoro**

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2025

PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly declare that this thesis entitled “Flouting Gricean Maxims as a Source of Humor in Emma Seligman’s *Bottoms* (2023)” is written by myself and without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also confirm that I do not use any material from other publications or someone’s work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, September 10th, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yanandra Amalia', written in a cursive style.

Yanandra Amalia

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“To be alive: not just the carcass. But the spark.”

Gregory Orr

“Let July be July. Let August be August. And let yourself just be even in the uncertainty.”

Morgan Harper Nichols

“There’s no greater vengeance than learning to enjoy again.”

Pierce The Veil

*This thesis is dedicated to my mom and dad,
those who have stood by my side,
and myself for my perseverance.*

APPROVAL

FLOUTING GRICEAN MAXIMS AS A SOURCE OF HUMOR IN EMMA SELIGMAN'S *BOTTOMS* (2023)

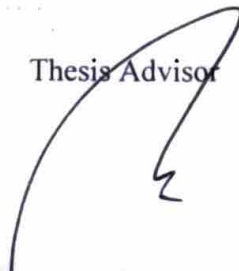
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I am grateful to God for the strength and guidance that helped me complete this thesis, “Flouting Gricean Maxims as a Source of Humor in Emma Seligman’s *Bottoms* (2023)”. This thesis is offered in gratitude for His help.

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Mualimin Dip.Tesl, M.Hum., my thesis advisor. His dedicated guidance, advice, and insightful suggestions have not just been helpful, but necessary to finish this thesis.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed to finishing this thesis. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the following people:

1. Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum., as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Diponegoro.
2. Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M.Hum., as the Head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Diponegoro.
3. All lecturers of the English Department and the academic staff in the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Diponegoro.
4. My family: Mamah and Ayah, my aunt Mamah Hanif, my grandmother Mbah Jambu, and my late grandparents in heaven, whose support makes me want to keep learning and follow my dreams.
5. My English Literature friends Eksel, Anya, and Yasminel, for always being there for me and helping me with my studies.
6. My thesis guidance peer, Fia, for the insightful conversations that helped me finish this thesis.

7. The light of my life, Boni, for always giving me strength and hope.
8. Countless people on the internet whose words and reassurances have kept me going, even if I don't know them personally.
9. Finally, I can't forget the artists and their work that helped me to keep writing this thesis. They include Ethel Cain, Pierce The Veil, KATSEYE, Deftones, and many more.

Although this thesis has imperfections, it provides opportunities for improvement. In conclusion, I hope that this study will be useful for researchers who want to examine how Gricean maxims are flouted in other works of literature.

Semarang, September 10th, 2025



Yanandra Amalia

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ABSTRACT

Grice (1975) suggested that people can communicate better if they follow conversational maxims. However, these maxims are often flouted on purpose to make people laugh. The aim of this study is to examine how the film *Bottoms* (2023) flouts Gricean maxims to generate humor. The data used in this study are utterances from characters that flout the Gricean maxims. Grice's (1975) Cooperative Principle and Berger's (1993) verbal humor techniques were used to examine the data. In total, 65 cases of flouting the Gricean maxims were found. According to the data, the quality maxim is flouted the most, 33 times (50.7%). The most common verbal humor techniques used to flout this maxim are sarcasm (13 cases), irony (13 cases), and exaggeration (6 cases). Based on these data, it can be concluded that *Bottoms*' humor comes mostly from flouting the maxim of quality, and Berger's framework suits the way of explaining how the film produces humor.

Keywords: *Cooperative Principle, maxim flouting, verbal humor techniques, humor*