CINEFORUM
ISSN: 0009-7039
Vol. 66. No. S5, 2026 (Special Issue S5)

Research gap Analysis Gricean Communication in Generation Z Natural & Artificial Language

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ABSTRACT
The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), social media platforms, and digital communication technologies has significantly transformed the communicative practices of Generation Z, influencing how language is produced, interpreted, and negotiated within digitally mediated environments. These developments have generated new forms of interaction in which human communication increasingly intersects with algorithmically shaped linguistic patterns, raising important questions regarding communicative effectiveness, ethical responsibility, and the dignity of social interaction. This article examines Gricean communication in the context of the relationship between natural language and AI-influenced language and explores its implications for maintaining meaningful and respectful human interaction in contemporary digital culture. This study employs a conceptual-theoretical research design based on an integrative literature review and conceptual analysis. Rather than collecting empirical data from respondents, the study critically synthesizes interdisciplinary scholarship from pragmatics, communication ethics, digital culture, human–AI interaction, and media studies. Through thematic analysis of the literature, the study examines how Grice's Cooperative Principle and conversational maxims provide an interpretive framework for understanding emerging patterns of AI-mediated communication and their ethical consequences.The analysis indicates that contemporary digital communication increasingly incorporates linguistic structures influenced by technological systems, resulting in hybrid communicative practices that combine natural language with AI-assisted forms of expression. While these developments may enhance efficiency, accessibility, and communicative adaptability, they also introduce challenges related to contextual interpretation, ambiguity, emotional authenticity, and interpersonal understanding. From a Gricean perspective, the maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner remain essential normative principles for sustaining clarity, relevance, sincerity, and mutual intelligibility within technologically mediated interactions. This article argues that the dignity of social interaction is fundamentally linked to ethical communication practices that acknowledge interlocutors as persons deserving respect, understanding, and responsible engagement. By integrating Gricean pragmatics with contemporary discussions of AI-mediated communication, the study develops a conceptual framework that clarifies both the opportunities and ethical challenges of communication in the digital era and provides a foundation for future empirical research on language, technology, and human relationality.
Keywords: Gricean communication, artificial intelligence, digital communication, Generation Z, communication ethics, social interaction dignity, pragmatics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Grice's (1975) Cooperative Principle, comprising the maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner, remains one of the foundational frameworks in pragmatics for explaining how interlocutors collaboratively construct meaning in communication. These maxims provide normative principles that enable communicative participants to achieve mutual understanding through contributions that are sufficiently informative, truthful, relevant, and clearly expressed. Although originally formulated to explain face-to-face human interaction, Gricean pragmatics continues to offer valuable insights for understanding communication within increasingly complex and technologically mediated environments. Recent scholarship suggests that Gricean principles remain highly relevant for examining both human communication and emerging forms of human–AI interaction, particularly as conversational technologies become increasingly integrated into everyday social practices (Krause & Vossen, 2024; Panfili et al., 2021).

Communication, however, involves more than the efficient exchange of information. Language functions as a social and ethical practice through which individuals negotiate meaning, establish relationships, express identity, and affirm the value of others as communicative partners. Cooperative interaction therefore depends not only on

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linguistic competence but also on communicative responsibility and mutual recognition. Within this perspective, adherence to Gricean maxims contributes not merely to communicative effectiveness but also to the preservation of interactional dignity by encouraging respect, sincerity, relevance, attentiveness, and interpretive fairness in social interaction. Conversely, persistent violations of these principles may contribute to misunderstanding, manipulation, communicative exclusion, and the erosion of interpersonal trust (Grice, 1975; Sadsad, 2024).

The rapid development of artificial intelligence, particularly Large Language Models (LLMs), introduces new complexities into contemporary communication practices. Unlike earlier communication technologies that primarily facilitated information exchange between human users, generative AI systems increasingly participate in language production, conversational interaction, educational support, and decision-making processes. Consequently, communication is no longer exclusively human-to-human but increasingly occurs within hybrid communicative environments in which AI systems influence linguistic behavior, information evaluation, and expectations regarding conversational cooperation (Nam et al., 2023; Radhakrishnan et al., 2024; Tanveer et al., 2025). The conceptual analysis presented in this article suggests that AI technologies do not merely alter communication efficiency but also reshape the conditions under which Gricean cooperation is interpreted and enacted.

These developments are especially significant for Generation Z because this cohort represents the first generation to experience socialization almost entirely within digitally mediated ecosystems. Unlike previous generations that adapted to digital technologies later in life, Generation Z developed communicative habits within environments characterized by algorithmic recommendation systems, social media interaction, instant messaging, and AI-assisted information retrieval. Their communication practices are frequently shaped by immediacy, multimodality, brevity, personalization, and continuous interaction with intelligent technologies (Mulqueeny et al., 2015). As AI systems become embedded within educational, professional, and interpersonal communication, Generation Z occupies a distinctive theoretical position because its members function not merely as technology users but as participants in communicative environments fundamentally shaped by algorithmic mediation and artificial intelligence.

This distinction establishes Generation Z not simply as a demographic context but as a central analytical category within the present conceptual framework. The communicative experiences of Generation Z differ from broader digital communication patterns because AI technologies increasingly participate directly in message production, content filtering, conversational assistance, and educational interaction. Recent discussions concerning ChatGPT-supported education further suggest that AI-mediated communication is becoming an integral component of learning environments and knowledge construction processes, particularly among younger generations who engage extensively with conversational AI technologies in educational settings (Uğraş et al., 2024a; Uğraş et al., 2024b). These developments raise important questions regarding how cooperative communication principles operate when communicative participation involves both human interlocutors and intelligent technological agents.

Although research on Gricean pragmatics, Generation Z communication, AI-mediated communication, and communication ethics has expanded considerably, these areas frequently remain theoretically fragmented. Studies of Gricean communication primarily examine conversational meaning and pragmatic inference, whereas research on Generation Z often focuses on digital literacy, online behavior, and social media practices. Similarly, studies of artificial intelligence tend to emphasize technological capabilities, educational applications, or ethical governance frameworks (Holmes et al., 2020; Selwyn, 2021). Comparatively limited attention has been devoted to understanding how AI-mediated communication reshapes the enactment of Gricean maxims and what implications these developments may have for preserving interactional dignity within digitally mediated environments.

This article addresses this theoretical gap by developing a conceptual framework that integrates Gricean pragmatics, AI-mediated communication, communication ethics, and Generation Z digital practices. More specifically, the article argues that the four Gricean maxims provide an interpretive model for understanding the preservation of interactional dignity within AI-mediated communication environments. The maxim of quantity contributes to dignity preservation by discouraging informational overload and communicative neglect; the maxim of quality supports trust and authenticity through commitments to truthfulness and reliability; the maxim of relation promotes recognition of interlocutors through contextual responsiveness and attentiveness; and the maxim of manner protects communicative accessibility through clarity, transparency, and interpretive fairness.

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Accordingly, the contribution of this article extends beyond reaffirming the continued relevance of Gricean pragmatics by proposing a normative framework through which interactional dignity may be understood and preserved within technologically mediated communication contexts.

The article advances the following conceptual proposition: **Gricean communication provides an interpretive framework for understanding how AI-influenced language practices shape communicative behavior and influence the preservation of interactional dignity among Generation Z within digitally mediated communication environments.** Building upon this proposition, the conceptual analysis suggests that although artificial intelligence may transform communication practices, the preservation of human dignity in interaction continues to depend upon communicative responsibility, sincerity, relevance, clarity, and respect for persons as relational beings.

As a conceptual-theoretical contribution, this article does not seek to provide empirical verification of these relationships but rather to develop an integrative framework capable of guiding future empirical investigations. Consequently, further research is needed to examine how Generation Z experiences, negotiates, and applies Gricean principles within educational, social, and professional environments increasingly mediated by artificial intelligence technologies.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Core Conceptual Constructs

This article is organized around four interrelated conceptual domains that together provide a framework for understanding communication in increasingly AI-mediated environments. Rather than functioning as isolated variables, these domains represent interacting analytical categories derived from pragmatics, communication ethics, digital sociology, and human–AI interaction studies.

Gricean Pragmatics

The Cooperative Principle proposed by Grice (1975) provides the primary interpretive lens for understanding communicative cooperation. The maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner establish normative expectations that enable interlocutors to construct meaning through contributions that are sufficiently informative, truthful, relevant, and clear. Although initially formulated to explain face-to-face interaction, subsequent scholarship has extended Gricean theory to digitally mediated communication and conversational AI systems, demonstrating its continuing relevance for understanding both human and machine-generated discourse.

Generation Z Communication

Generation Z constitutes the central communicative context of this article rather than merely a demographic category. As the first generation socialized almost entirely within digital ecosystems, Generation Z has developed communicative practices shaped by social media interaction, algorithmically curated information environments, multimodal expression, and AI-assisted technologies. Their communication patterns are characterized by brevity, immediacy, participatory interaction, and continuous engagement with intelligent systems. These characteristics distinguish Generation Z communication from broader digital communication practices and make it a particularly important context for examining emerging forms of human–AI interaction.

Artificial Intelligence–Mediated Language

Artificial intelligence–mediated language refers to communication generated, supported, or structured by large language models, conversational agents, chatbots, and natural language processing technologies. Unlike previous communication technologies that merely facilitated human interaction, generative AI systems actively participate in language production and conversational exchange. Such systems introduce new communicative dynamics in which meaning is co-constructed through interactions between human users and algorithmic agents.

Interactional Dignity

Interactional dignity represents the ethical dimension of communication and refers to communicative relationships characterized by respect, recognition, empathy, attentiveness, and responsible engagement. Communication is not simply the exchange of information but a relational practice through which individuals acknowledge one another as persons possessing intrinsic worth. Within AI-mediated environments, preserving interactional dignity becomes increasingly important because technological mediation may influence trust, recognition, and interpersonal understanding.

2.2 Conceptual Relationships and Areas of Theoretical Underdevelopment

The literature synthesis suggests several areas where existing scholarship remains fragmented and insufficiently integrated.

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Conceptual Relationship	**Area of Theoretical Underdevelopment**
Gricean Pragmatics – Generation Z	Limited theoretical integration between conversational maxims and digitally native communication practices within platform-mediated environments.
Gricean Pragmatics – AI	Lack of consensus regarding the applicability of cooperative principles to machine-generated discourse and conversational agents.
Generation Z – Interactional Dignity	Limited theorization of dignity preservation within digitally mediated identity performance and online interaction.
AI – Interactional Dignity	Absence of comprehensive frameworks addressing dignity within AI-mediated communication processes.
Generation Z – AI	Limited understanding of how AI technologies reshape communicative expectations among digital-native populations.
Gricean Pragmatics – Interactional Dignity	Insufficient integration between pragmatic theory and communication ethics in technologically mediated contexts.

Collectively, these conceptual discontinuities indicate the absence of a unified framework capable of explaining how pragmatic norms, AI technologies, and ethical communication interact within contemporary digital environments.

2.3 Integrative Conceptual Proposition

This article proposes that Gricean pragmatics provides an interpretive bridge connecting AI-mediated language practices and the preservation of interactional dignity within Generation Z communication environments.

The conceptual contribution extends beyond the observation that Gricean maxims remain relevant in digital communication. Instead, the article argues that each maxim contributes to the preservation of interactional dignity in distinct but complementary ways.

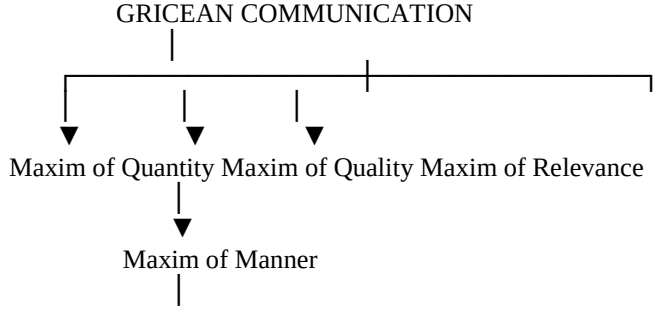
The maxim of **Quantity** supports dignity by encouraging communicative balance, preventing both informational neglect and overwhelming communicative excess. Providing either too little or too much information may undermine mutual recognition and meaningful participation.

The maxim of **Quality** preserves dignity through commitments to truthfulness, reliability, and authenticity. Trust constitutes a fundamental condition of respectful interaction, particularly in environments increasingly populated by AI-generated content and misinformation.

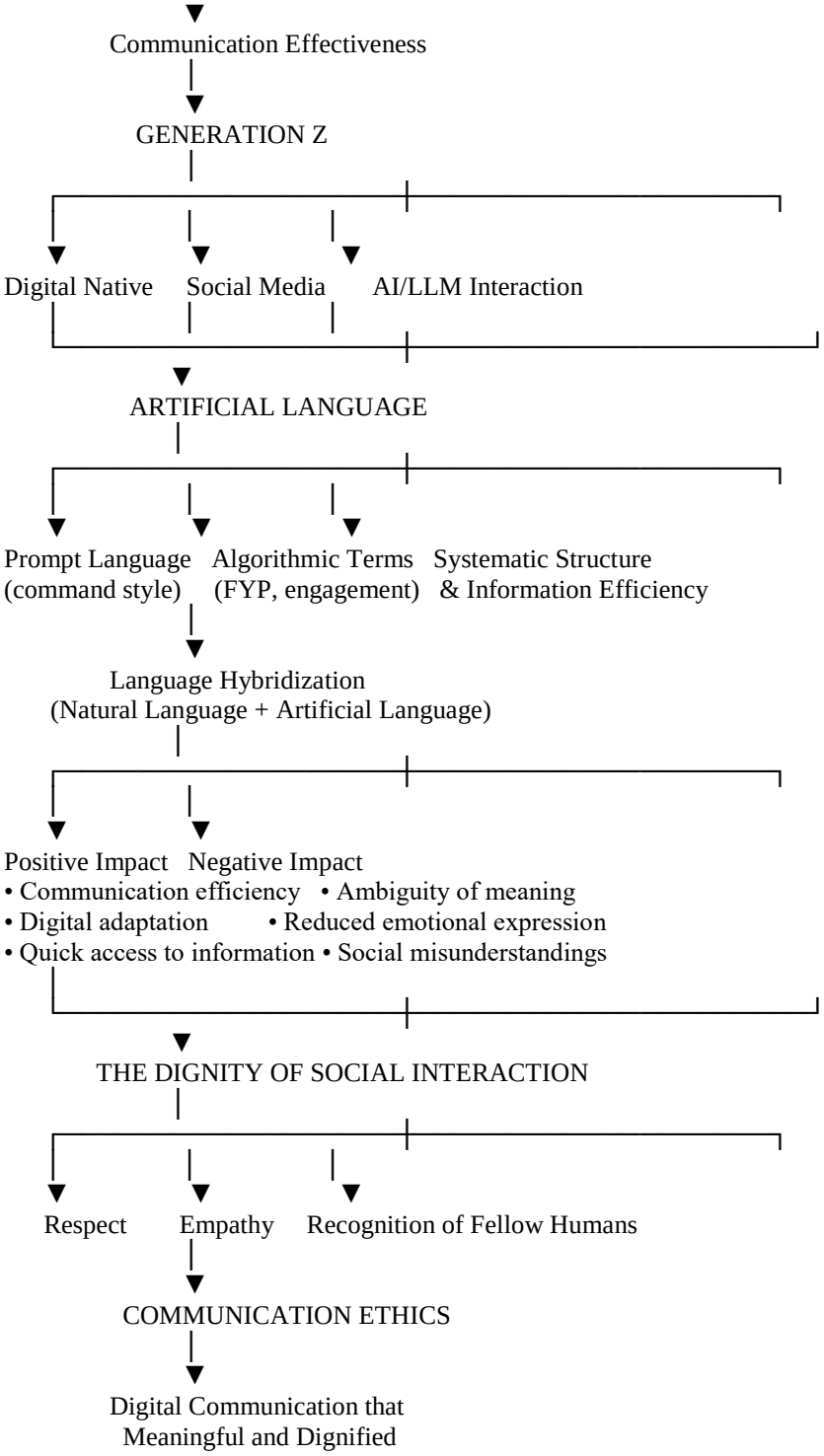
The maxim of **Relation** promotes dignity through attentiveness and contextual responsiveness. Relevant communication demonstrates recognition of the interlocutor's concerns, needs, and communicative intentions, thereby reinforcing relational respect.

The maxim of **Manner** contributes to dignity by emphasizing clarity, transparency, and interpretive accessibility. Ambiguous or unnecessarily complex communication may create exclusion, misunderstanding, and communicative inequality.

Accordingly, this article argues that interactional dignity in AI-mediated environments depends not only upon technological efficiency but also upon the preservation of communicative norms that support trust, recognition, and mutual understanding. Gricean pragmatics therefore functions not merely as a descriptive model of conversation but as a normative framework for evaluating ethical communication within contemporary digitally mediated societies.



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3. RESEARCH METHODS

We appreciate this important observation. To resolve the inconsistency, the manuscript has been fully reconstructed as a conceptual-theoretical study based on an integrative literature review and conceptual analysis. All references to survey methodology, purposive sampling, questionnaires, respondents, Likert-scale instruments, validity and reliability testing, regression analysis, SEM, and statistical procedures have been removed. The methodology section now clearly explains the conceptual research design, literature selection process, thematic synthesis procedures, and analytical framework employed in the study.

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We agree with the reviewer. Because the manuscript is now positioned as a conceptual article, all empirical language referring to respondents, participant behavior, survey findings, or statistical outcomes has been removed. The section previously labeled "Results" has been reformulated as "Conceptual Analysis and Theoretical Discussion." The revised section develops conceptual arguments and theoretical propositions derived from the synthesis of interdisciplinary literature rather than empirical observations.

3.1 Research Design

This study employs a **conceptual research design** based on an **integrative literature review and theoretical analysis**. The purpose of this design is to synthesize and critically examine existing scholarly works related to Gricean pragmatics, Generation Z communication, artificial intelligence–mediated language, and interactional dignity.

Rather than collecting empirical data, the study focuses on developing a **theoretical integration framework** that connects previously fragmented domains of communication studies. The design follows a qualitative-interpretive orientation in which meaning is constructed through systematic engagement with literature and conceptual reasoning (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

3.2 Literature Selection and Data Sources

The literature reviewed in this study was drawn from peer-reviewed journal articles, books, conference proceedings, and authoritative academic reports. The selection process prioritized sources that address:

Gricean Cooperative Principle and pragmatics
Generation Z digital communication behavior
Artificial intelligence and language generation systems
Human–AI interaction and digital discourse
Communication ethics and interactional dignity

Inclusion criteria were based on conceptual relevance, theoretical contribution, and academic credibility. Sources that lacked direct relevance to communication theory or digital pragmatics were excluded to ensure analytical coherence.

3.3 Analytical Procedure

The analysis was conducted using a **thematic synthesis approach**, involving three stages:

Conceptual Extraction

Key theoretical constructs were identified from each body of literature, including Gricean maxims, AI-mediated language patterns, Gen Z communication practices, and interactional dignity.

Thematic Integration

Concepts were grouped into higher-order themes reflecting communicative behavior, technological mediation, and ethical relationality in digital environments.

Interpretive Synthesis

Relationships among concepts were analyzed to develop an integrated conceptual framework explaining how Gricean pragmatics operates as an interpretive bridge between AI-influenced communication and interactional dignity.

3.4 Analytical Framework

This study is grounded in the assumption that contemporary communication is shaped by the convergence of human linguistic practices and artificial intelligence systems. Within this framework:

Artificial language is understood as AI-generated or AI-influenced linguistic structures that shape communication efficiency and form.

Gricean communication functions as an interpretive normative framework for assessing meaning, relevance, and coherence.

Generation Z communication represents a digitally native communicative environment characterized by multimodal and platform-mediated interaction.

Interactional dignity reflects the ethical condition of communication based on respect, empathy, and recognition.

Gricean pragmatics is therefore conceptualized as an **interpretive mechanism**, not a statistical mediator, through which the relationship between AI-mediated language and interactional dignity can be understood.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

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This study does not involve human participants, surveys, experiments, or personal data collection. Therefore, formal ethical approval was not required. All data analyzed in this study were obtained from publicly available academic literature. Proper academic citation and intellectual integrity were maintained throughout the research process.

4. SUMMARY OF RESEARCH GAP PRIORITIES

The following matrix summarizes areas of conceptual underdevelopment identified through the literature synthesis. These gaps represent theoretical discontinuities rather than empirical deficiencies and provide the rationale for the present integrative framework.

No.	Conceptual Dimension	Current State of Scholarship	Area of Theoretical Underdevelopment	Priority Level	Representative Literature
1	Communicative Subjects	Existing studies primarily examine general adult populations or university students.	Limited attention has been given to Generation Z as a distinct communicative cohort within AI-mediated Gricean interaction.	High	Sadsad (2024); Nam et al. (2023)
2	Communication Platforms	Studies frequently focus on single digital platforms such as Facebook or Instagram.	Limited theoretical attention has been devoted to omnichannel communication environments involving TikTok, Discord, WhatsApp, and AI conversational systems simultaneously.	Medium	Sadsad (2024)
3	Pragmatic Theory	Gricean theory has predominantly been applied to human-human interaction.	The relationship between Gricean cooperation and interactional dignity remains underdeveloped in digital communication scholarship.	High	Grice (1975); Zaki and Pei (2025)
4	Human-AI Communication	AI studies frequently analyze language generation independently of social interaction.	Limited conceptual work examines naturally occurring human-AI interaction through a Gricean interpretive lens.	High	Tanveer et al. (2025)
5	Cultural Context	Existing scholarship is dominated by Western and East Asian contexts.	Southeast Asian and Indonesian communicative traditions remain comparatively underrepresented within digital pragmatics research.	Medium	Radhakrishnan et al. (2024)
6	Extension of Pragmatic Theory	Existing work generally focuses on the four classical Gricean maxims.	Additional dimensions such as transparency and benevolence remain insufficiently integrated into AI communication theory.	Medium	Krause and Vossen (2024); Radhakrishnan et al. (2024)
7	Natural and Artificial Language	Human communication and NLP studies are frequently treated separately.	Comparative frameworks examining interaction between human and AI communicative patterns remain limited.	High	Krause and Vossen (2024); Nam et al. (2023)
8	Communication Ethics	Pragmatics and social psychology are frequently examined independently.	The relationship between Gricean cooperation and interactional dignity remains theoretically fragmented.	Medium	Zaki and Pei (2025); Tanveer et al. (2025)

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Summary of Research Gap Priorities
The literature synthesis identifies three primary areas of conceptual priority. First, the role of Generation Z as a digitally native communicative community remains theoretically underdeveloped within Gricean and AI-mediated communication scholarship. Second, the relationship between pragmatic cooperation and interactional dignity requires stronger conceptual articulation, particularly in environments shaped by algorithmic mediation. Third, the interaction between natural human language and artificial language systems calls for more integrated theoretical frameworks capable of explaining hybrid communicative environments.

5. CONCEPTUAL SYNTHESIS AND THEORETICAL PROPOSITIONS

Building upon the conceptual relationships identified above, this article advances three theoretical propositions intended to guide future scholarly discussion.
Proposition 1: Integrative Digital Pragmatics
Gricean pragmatics provides a unified interpretive framework for examining both Generation Z communication practices and AI-generated language within digitally mediated environments. Rather than treating human and artificial language as separate domains, this proposition conceptualizes them as interacting communicative systems operating within shared pragmatic norms.
Proposition 2: Interactional Dignity as a Pragmatic Outcome
Interactional dignity may be understood as an ethical outcome of communicative cooperation. The fulfillment of the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner contributes to trust, recognition, respect, and interpretive fairness, whereas persistent violations may contribute to misunderstanding, exclusion, and communicative harm.
Proposition 3: Contextual Digital Pragmatics
The interpretation and application of Gricean principles are shaped by cultural contexts and communicative traditions. Consequently, theories of AI-mediated communication should remain attentive to local understandings of politeness, social harmony, and face management within non-Western societies, including Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

Implications For Future Conceptual Development

The conceptual synthesis presented in this article suggests several promising directions for future scholarship. Comparative studies may further explore the relationship between human-generated and AI-generated discourse, while cross-cultural approaches may examine how local communication norms shape the interpretation of Gricean cooperation in digital environments. Additionally, the proposed framework may provide a foundation for future empirical investigation into the relationship between AI-mediated communication and the preservation of interactional dignity among Generation Z users.
As a conceptual-theoretical contribution, this article does not claim empirical validation of these propositions. Rather, it offers an integrative framework intended to stimulate future empirical and interdisciplinary research on communication, artificial intelligence, and digital ethics.

6. RESEARCH RESULTS

6.1 Conceptual Influence of Artificial Language on Generation Z Communication Practices

The expansion of social media ecosystems and artificial intelligence technologies has transformed contemporary communication environments. This article argues that Generation Z occupies a unique position within this transformation because it represents the first generation whose communicative socialization has occurred almost entirely within digitally mediated environments. Unlike earlier generations that adopted digital technologies after establishing conventional communication habits, Generation Z developed communicative competencies simultaneously with social media platforms, algorithmic recommendation systems, and AI-assisted technologies (Mulqueeny et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2023).
Consequently, Generation Z communication is characterized by immediacy, multimodality, brevity, and platform responsiveness. Expressions such as "algorithm," "engagement," "viral," and "prompt" illustrate the emergence of hybrid linguistic practices that combine conventional language with computational vocabularies and AI-associated terminology. The increasing integration of conversational AI tools such as ChatGPT into educational and everyday settings further accelerates these transformations by normalizing interaction with machine-generated language (Uğraş et al., 2024a; Uğraş et al., 2024b).
This article therefore conceptualizes Generation Z communication as a hybrid communicative ecology in which natural language and artificial language systems coexist and interact continuously. Rather than replacing human communication, artificial language contributes to the restructuring of communicative habits, interpretive strategies, and social interaction patterns within digital society.

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6.2 Gricean Pragmatics as a Framework for Preserving Interactional Dignity

The Cooperative Principle proposed by Grice (1975) remains one of the most influential frameworks for understanding communicative cooperation and inferential meaning-making. Recent developments in computational linguistics and natural language processing demonstrate that Gricean principles continue to provide valuable insights for evaluating machine-generated discourse and human-AI interaction (Krause & Vossen, 2024; Nam et al., 2023; Rappa et al., 2026).

This article extends Gricean theory by arguing that the four maxims contribute not only to communicative effectiveness but also to the preservation of interactional dignity in AI-mediated environments.

The maxim of **Quantity** supports dignity through communicative proportionality. Adequate information sharing demonstrates attentiveness to interlocutors and promotes equitable participation, whereas excessive brevity or information overload may weaken mutual recognition.

The maxim of **Quality** contributes to dignity by sustaining trustworthiness, authenticity, and epistemic responsibility. In environments increasingly populated by AI-generated texts and synthetic media, truthful communication becomes essential for preserving interpersonal trust and social credibility (Nam et al., 2023).

The maxim of **Relation** reinforces dignity by encouraging contextual responsiveness and relational attentiveness. Relevant communication recognizes the concerns and intentions of interlocutors, thereby strengthening mutual understanding and respect.

The maxim of **Manner** preserves dignity through clarity, transparency, and interpretive accessibility. Ambiguous communication or unnecessarily complex language may create communicative exclusion and inequality, particularly in heterogeneous digital communities.

Accordingly, Gricean pragmatics functions not merely as a descriptive account of conversation but as a normative framework for evaluating ethical communication in technologically mediated environments.

6.3 Hybridization of Natural and Artificial Language

The interaction between human communication and artificial intelligence systems has generated a process of linguistic hybridization in which natural language increasingly intersects with machine-generated discourse. Conversational agents, predictive text systems, large language models, and prompt-based interactions introduce new communicative conventions that influence how users formulate requests, organize information, and negotiate meaning (Holmes et al., 2020; Panfili et al., 2021).

Studies of human-AI interaction suggest that users frequently adapt their communication styles when interacting with AI systems by employing more explicit, structured, and directive linguistic forms (Radhakrishnan et al., 2024). These developments do not signify the replacement of human communication but rather the emergence of hybrid communicative environments where human agency and algorithmic language production coexist.

Recent scholarship further suggests that conversational AI systems themselves can be evaluated using Gricean principles concerning relevance, coherence, informativeness, and clarity (Krause & Vossen, 2024; Nam et al., 2023). Such developments indicate that pragmatic theory remains highly relevant for understanding communication in the age of artificial intelligence.

6.4 Interactional Dignity in AI-Mediated Communication

Interactional dignity refers to communicative relationships characterized by recognition, empathy, respect, and responsible engagement. Communication is not merely the exchange of information but a relational process through which individuals affirm the intrinsic worth of one another.

Within digitally mediated environments, dignity increasingly depends upon communicative norms that govern interactions between human users and technological systems. AI technologies may enhance accessibility, efficiency, and educational opportunities, but communication that prioritizes optimization and speed without attentiveness to relational concerns risks weakening interpersonal recognition and social cohesion (Selwyn, 2019; Holmes et al., 2020).

Emerging scholarship in communication ethics and social wellbeing emphasizes that meaningful social relationships remain essential for psychological flourishing, particularly among younger generations whose social experiences are deeply embedded within digital ecosystems (Zaki & Pei, 2025). Consequently, preserving interactional dignity requires balancing technological efficiency with communicative responsibility and ethical attentiveness.

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6.5 Conceptual Synthesis

This article proposes that artificial intelligence influences Generation Z communication practices by shaping linguistic expectations, communicative norms, and interpretive strategies. Gricean pragmatics functions as an interpretive framework for evaluating these developments, while interactional dignity represents the ethical outcome of communicative responsibility.

The conceptual contribution of this article therefore extends beyond demonstrating the continued relevance of Grice's Cooperative Principle. Instead, it argues that the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner provide a theoretical foundation for understanding how dignity, trust, and mutual recognition may be preserved within increasingly AI-mediated communication environments.

6.6 Limitations

This article is conceptual-theoretical in nature and does not report empirical observations or statistical findings. Following the distinction between conceptual and empirical inquiry described by John W. Creswell and J. David Creswell (2018), the proposed framework is intended as an integrative synthesis of scholarship from pragmatics, communication studies, and AI ethics. The propositions advanced in this article therefore require future empirical examination across diverse cultural settings and communication environments involving Generation Z and conversational AI technologies.

7. DISCUSSION

Generation Z communication may be understood as occupying an increasingly complex intersection between natural language and artificial language systems. The expansion of social media platforms, algorithmic infrastructures, and artificial intelligence technologies has transformed not only communication media but also the communicative environments within which linguistic practices emerge and evolve (Holmes et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2023). Unlike previous generations that adopted digital technologies after establishing conventional communication habits, Generation Z developed communicative competencies within ecosystems already characterized by platform algorithms, multimodal interaction, and AI-assisted communication tools. Consequently, Generation Z constitutes a theoretically significant focus for examining contemporary communicative transformation.

From a pragmatic perspective, meaning construction is no longer confined to human-to-human interaction but increasingly emerges through interactions involving human users, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence systems (Panfili et al., 2021; Rappa et al., 2026). Communication therefore operates within hybrid environments where technological mediation influences linguistic choices, interpretive expectations, and conversational norms. Within these environments, Grice's Cooperative Principle retains considerable interpretive value. The maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner continue to function as normative principles that facilitate communicative cooperation, although their practical expression may be adapted to digitally mediated contexts (Grice, 1975; Krause & Vossen, 2024). Concise messages, abbreviations, emojis, and multimodal symbols frequently employed by Generation Z may therefore be interpreted not as violations of pragmatic norms but as adaptive responses to communication ecosystems that prioritize speed, efficiency, and platform responsiveness (Mulqueeny et al., 2015).

The maxim of Quantity acquires renewed significance in digital environments characterized by information abundance. Communicative dignity is supported when interlocutors provide information that is sufficient for understanding without creating informational overload or exclusion. Excessive brevity may reduce interpretive accessibility, whereas excessive detail may undermine participation and attentiveness.

The maxim of Quality contributes to interactional dignity through commitments to truthfulness, reliability, and epistemic responsibility. In communication environments increasingly populated by AI-generated texts, synthetic media, and algorithmically distributed information, the ethical obligation to communicate responsibly becomes particularly important for sustaining trust and social credibility (Nam et al., 2023).

The maxim of Relation supports dignity through contextual responsiveness and recognition of interlocutors' communicative intentions. Relevant communication demonstrates attentiveness to the concerns and perspectives of others, thereby reinforcing respect, empathy, and relational reciprocity.

The maxim of Manner contributes to dignity by promoting clarity, transparency, and interpretive accessibility. Communication that is unnecessarily ambiguous or excessively dependent upon specialized digital knowledge may inadvertently exclude participants possessing different levels of technological literacy (Papakostas, 2025; Selwyn, 2019). As communicative environments become increasingly heterogeneous, clarity becomes an ethical as well as a pragmatic responsibility.

Artificial language systems do not replace natural language but contribute to processes of linguistic hybridization in which human linguistic conventions coexist with computational and algorithmic logics (Radhakrishnan et al.,

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2024). Prompt engineering, chatbot interaction, predictive text technologies, and AI-assisted writing systems introduce communicative patterns that influence how individuals formulate requests, organize information, and negotiate meaning. Generation Z users increasingly integrate these computational structures into everyday communication, producing hybrid linguistic practices that reflect the convergence of sociolinguistic and technological processes.

These developments possess important implications for communication ethics. Interactional dignity extends beyond politeness strategies and refers to communicative relationships characterized by recognition, empathy, respect, and responsible engagement. Communication becomes ethically meaningful when interlocutors acknowledge one another as persons possessing intrinsic worth rather than merely as sources or recipients of information.

Accordingly, this article argues that AI-mediated communication does not inherently diminish interactional dignity. Rather, dignity is preserved when communicative actors maintain contextual sensitivity, interpretive generosity, transparency, and attentiveness to the communicative capacities of others. Ethical communication therefore depends less upon technological systems themselves and more upon the normative principles that guide their use.

The conceptual contribution of this article lies in integrating three domains that are frequently examined separately within existing scholarship: Gricean pragmatics, AI-mediated communication, and communication ethics. By positioning Grice's Cooperative Principle as an interpretive bridge between technological mediation and human dignity, this framework extends the application of Gricean theory beyond conversational efficiency toward questions of ethical communication and social recognition in digitally mediated societies.

The analysis further suggests that communicative competence in the age of artificial intelligence requires more than technical fluency in digital environments. It also requires the cultivation of empathy, responsibility, interpretive awareness, and respect for others within increasingly automated communication systems. From this perspective, the future of communication is not defined by a dichotomy between natural and artificial language but by their integration within ethically grounded communicative practices.

This section forms part of a conceptual-theoretical analysis and does not report empirical observations or statistical findings. The framework proposed here is intended as an interdisciplinary synthesis that may inform future empirical investigations into Generation Z communication, artificial intelligence, and interactional dignity across diverse cultural and technological contexts.

8. CONCLUSION

This article has explored the interrelationship between Gricean communication, AI-mediated linguistic practices, and interactional dignity within the communicative experiences of Generation Z. Through a conceptual synthesis of pragmatics, digital communication studies, human–AI interaction research, and communication ethics, the article argues that contemporary communication environments are increasingly shaped by the convergence of human linguistic practices and algorithmically mediated systems.

The conceptual analysis suggests that the expansion of artificial intelligence technologies, social media ecosystems, and algorithmic infrastructures contributes to the emergence of hybrid communicative forms in which natural language coexists with AI-influenced linguistic patterns. These developments do not imply the replacement of human language by machine-generated language. Rather, they reflect the adaptation of communication practices within socio-technical environments characterized by speed, efficiency, multimodality, and continuous technological mediation. Meaning construction increasingly occurs not only through interpersonal interaction but also through interactions between users and computational systems embedded in digital platforms.

Within this evolving communicative ecology, Generation Z occupies a particularly significant position because it represents the first generation whose linguistic socialization has occurred predominantly within digitally mediated environments. Unlike previous generations that adapted to digital communication later in life, Generation Z has developed communication practices that are intrinsically shaped by social media cultures, algorithmic recommendations, multimodal interaction, and AI-assisted technologies. Consequently, Generation Z provides an especially relevant theoretical context for examining the transformation of communicative norms in the age of artificial intelligence.

The article further argues that Grice's Cooperative Principle remains a valuable interpretive and normative framework for understanding communication in AI-mediated environments. The maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner continue to provide criteria for evaluating communicative adequacy, although their implementation becomes increasingly complex within digital ecosystems characterized by brevity, algorithmic filtering, and platform-specific discourse conventions.

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More specifically, the maxim of quantity contributes to interactional dignity by promoting informational sufficiency without overwhelming or manipulating interlocutors. The maxim of quality supports epistemic trust and communicative responsibility by emphasizing truthfulness and informational integrity. The maxim of relation preserves respect for interlocutors by ensuring contextual relevance and attentiveness to conversational needs. The maxim of manner strengthens accessibility, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding through clarity and interpretive transparency. Collectively, these principles function not merely as pragmatic rules of efficient communication but as ethical conditions that sustain recognition, respect, and dignity within human interaction.

The principal conceptual contribution of this article lies in integrating Gricean pragmatics, AI-mediated communication studies, Generation Z digital communication, and communication ethics into a unified analytical framework. This interdisciplinary synthesis demonstrates that technological transformations in communication cannot be fully understood through linguistic or technological perspectives alone but require ethical and relational analysis grounded in human communication theory. The framework therefore contributes to emerging discussions in digital pragmatics by positioning interactional dignity as a central concern in human–AI communication environments.

This article also suggests practical implications for digital communication literacy and AI education. As AI-assisted communication becomes increasingly integrated into educational, social, and professional contexts, communicative competence should encompass not only technical proficiency but also empathy, contextual awareness, respect, and communicative responsibility. In this regard, the preservation of interactional dignity becomes an essential objective of communication in digitally mediated societies.

Nevertheless, several limitations should be acknowledged. This study is conceptual and theoretical in nature and does not involve empirical observation, experimental validation, or quantitative measurement of communicative behavior. Consequently, the proposed relationships among Gricean pragmatics, AI-mediated language practices, Generation Z communication, and interactional dignity remain theoretical propositions requiring empirical examination. Future research may test this framework through corpus-based analyses of digital conversations, cross-cultural comparative studies, digital ethnography, or mixed-method investigations of human–AI interaction across diverse communication platforms.

Ultimately, communication in the age of artificial intelligence should not be understood as a binary opposition between human and machine language systems, but as an evolving hybrid communicative ecology in which ethical responsibility becomes increasingly central. Grice's Cooperative Principle therefore remains not only a theory of conversational cooperation but also a normative framework for preserving clarity, mutual understanding, and interactional dignity in technologically mediated communication

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