

A Pragmatic Study of Nonverbal Communication in Johnny Depp Versus Amber Heard's Public Trial

Kawther A. Hussein

Registration and Students' Affairs Department, University of Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq

Nawal F. Abbas*

College of Education for Women, University of Baghdad, Baghdad, Iraq

Abstract—Depp and Heard's trial has reaped significant attention due to the domestic violence allegations directed towards each other. This paper sheds light on the repressed narrative beyond the mere words spoken aloud. It delves into an overlooked aspect, i.e., nonverbal communication. Previous studies focused on one or two categories of nonverbal communication. Therefore, the current study investigates the types and sub-types of nonverbal communication exhibited by both rivals within the courtroom setting. To examine the credibility and repressibility of nonverbal communication, the researchers have carefully watched (28) videos representing the whole trial's event. Some nonverbal communication was traced through the whole (28) videos from which (10) screenshots were purposely selected to represent nonverbal communication. In some cases, the researchers had to attract the reader's attention to the verbal communication to provide the context in which the nonverbal communication was analyzed. To achieve the aims of the study, the researchers rely on Grice's Maxims (1975) and Leonard's (2012) model of nonverbal communication, which consists of six categories with their subcategories. The results show that Depp utilized various types of nonverbal communication while Heard overused lip pressing and head movements. Depp also adhered to most of Grice's maxims, while Heard violated some. In some situations, the nonverbal communication was interpreted. In other situations, the nonverbal communication was supported or contradicted by verbal communication. Nonverbal communication cannot be controlled. If the communicator controls one or two types of nonverbal communication, it will either sound exaggerated or reveal the real intention.

Index Terms—Heard, Grice's maxims, Depp, nonverbal communication, testimony

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is “not merely a combination of words that by collecting their total meaning the whole phrase significance can be guessed” (Abbas & Younis, 2009, p. 822). Therefore, nonverbal communication is defined as “nonlinguistic, informative aspects of behavior and appearance, including head and body features or movements, touch, interpersonal distance, and paralinguage” (Hall et al., 2019, p. 272). Thus, nonverbal communication uses unspoken language represented by facial impressions, gestures, body movement, tone, and pitch. Besides, many scholars emphasize the credibility of nonverbal communication (Tracy et al., 2015; Grebelsky-Lichtman, 2017; Burgoon et al., 2022; Grillo & Enesi, 2022). Mishra (2017) also indicates the importance of nonverbal communication by giving 38% to the paralinguage (tone of voice, pitch) and 55% to the other nonverbal cues. The last 7% indicates the influence of verbal messages. Accordingly, nonverbal communication is fundamental to comprehending the message correctly. Many studies were conducted to examine nonverbal communication pragmatically, among them Jabber and Mahmood (2020), Ivana (2020), Muhammed (2022), Radhi et al. (2022). However, the focus is on one or two aspects of nonverbal cues with different data and diverse settings. Due to the effective influence of nonverbal communication on the entire message, it must be investigated. Hence, the researchers adopt Grice's maxims (1975) and Leonard's Model (2012) and adhere to a pragmatic perspective.

Wharton (2009, p. 10) states that "pragmatics is by its nature a cross-disciplinary subject, with its roots in philosophy and linguistics, but reaching out into cognitive science, psychology, sociology and even the study of non-human animal communication." Additionally, "[p]ragmatics is concerned with the way language is used to communicate rather than with the way language is structured" (Owens, 2016, p. 22). This communication could be verbal or nonverbal. It is also referred to as pragmatic behaviors, which are divided into two aspects: verbal and nonverbal (Dronkers et al., 1998). Words represent verbal behavior, while many cues, such as expressions, movements, and gestures, indicate nonverbal behavior. Therefore, nonverbal communication is "the sending and receiving of thoughts and feelings via nonverbal behavior" (Ambady & Weisbuch, 2010, p. 465).

* Corresponding Author.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Mohammed and Abbas (2015) state that the pragmatic domain has become "a big challenge for linguists and scholars in recent years." Pragmatics is defined as "the study of how meaning more gets communicated than is said," that is to say, the investigation of "the invisible meaning" (Qizi et al., 2020, p. 319). The invisible meaning can be understood better if it is connected with nonverbal communication. Hence, it is crucial to dive deep into nonverbal communication. Dash (2022, p. 172) posits that nonverbal communication "sends and receives wordless messages using facial expressions, gestures, postures, and other tones of voice." This communication can be examined through different approaches. There are three approaches to examining nonverbal communication. The first one is the code-based approach. It identifies certain types of nonverbal communication, like kinesics and proxemics, separately from verbal communication. In contrast, the second approach, the function-based approach, emphasizes what nonverbal communication can achieve for human engagement. This approach studies nonverbal communication with verbal communication and what they can contribute to the social context. The last approach is the property-based approach. It posits that nonverbal communication has a unique processing system. It concludes that nonverbal communication processes differ from verbal communication; simultaneously, it is interconnected with verbal communication (Manusov, 2016). The researchers adopted the property-based approach since it studies nonverbal communication in isolation and in relation to verbal communication. They also adopted Grice's Maxims (1975) and Leonard's Model (2012) to identify all types of nonverbal communication and whether they follow or violate Grice's maxims by adhering to a pragmatic perspective.

A. Grice's Maxims

Grice maxims (1975) were initially designed to deduce the meaning of verbal communication. Unlike this, the researchers chose them as a framework for the current study to understand nonverbal communication. This is based on Grice's (1975, p. 47) emphasis that these maxims "have their analogs in the sphere of transactions that are not talk exchange." Nonverbal communication (gestures and postures) contributes meaning to social exchange. Therefore, Grice's maxims can be extended to provide a framework for comprehending nonverbal communication since verbal and nonverbal communication convey meaningful and cooperative human interactions. Grice (1975) introduces the term "cooperative principle" (p. 45). Under it, participants have to be cooperative to make the purpose of communication obvious. This principle comprises maxims and sub-maxims. The first maxim is that of quantity. It comprises two subcategories: "to be informative and not to be more or less informative." The second maxim is quality. It consists of two sub-maxims: "Don't lie and don't communicate anything you are unsure about." The third one is relation maxim, within which comes one subcategory to "be relevant" (p. 46). The last maxim is manner. It refers to the sub maxims "to use obvious expressions, be clear, concise and arranged".

B. Leonard's Model

Leonard (2012) classifies nonverbal communication into six categories with subcategories. The first category is **kinesics**. It refers to the body and facial movements and consists of four subcategories: Gestures, Head Movements and Posture, Eye Contact, and Facial Expressions. The first subcategory within kinesics is Gestures. Gestures are movements that can be classified into three types, namely, adaptors, emblems, and illustrators. Adaptors are movements that show excitement, worry, and uneasiness. These adaptors could be directed to the self, such as scratching our face, to specific objects like clicking a pen, or to others, such as fixing someone's tie. Emblems indicate movements with a generalized meaning, like raising the thumb finger, which indicates 'OK'. Illustrators are these movements that we automatically use to clarify an idea. For example, we may move our hands in specific directions to indicate the size of an object (Leonard, 2012). The second subcategory within kinesics is Head Movements and Posture. Head Movements indicate nodding to agree, shaking to disagree, or tilting to demonstrate interest and admiration. On the other hand, posture refers to four positions: sitting, standing, squatting, and lying down. For example, straddling a chair shows dominance and protection of oneself, leaning backward to demonstrate indifference, or leaning forward to show interest (Hargie, 2011; Leonard, 2012; Pease & Pease, 2017). The last two subcategories within kinesics are Eye Contact and Facial Expressions. Eye contact can indicate admiration, arrange turn-taking, make a connection, and send information. Facial expressions are the movements of the face that are recognizable worldwide, like sorrow, fury, and gladness. They can reflect a wide range of emotions that can be used to detect the sincerity of others. For instance, a smile is perceived genuinely when the muscles around the eyes are activated (Evans, 2001; Pease, 2004; Leonard, 2012).

The second category after kinesics is **Haptics**. It refers to the investigation of communication through touch. It could carry different meanings, like to persuade, threaten, or welcome. For example, shaking somebody's hand 'firmly' indicates confidence and credibility, and vice versa. After Haptics comes to Vocalics, which refers to the examination of para-language, which includes the tone, pitch, volume, fillers, or "[c]ontinuers" like um, ah, huh, and how fast or slow we speak. Para-language carries a specific message. For example, when someone says (I am OK) with a fast, short tone, it indicates the opposite (Andersen, 1999; Leonard, 2012; Abbas, 2020, p. 1251). Another category is **Proxemics**. It examines the space and its influence on communication between people (Leonard, 2012). Hall (1968) divides this space into four categories: the public space about twelve feet or more. It indicates formality, fear, and dominance; social space or "social distance of the speakers" (Abbas, 2013, p. 186) is about four to twelve feet used in professional and daily

conversations; personal space is about one and a half to four feet. It is for people we already know, like friends. The last one is the intimate space, less than 1.5 feet. It includes lovers, best friends, and family.

Then comes **Chronemics**, which denotes time and its effect on communication. For instance, having a conversation in the early morning will require more preparation and energy than at other times. The last category is **Personal Presentation and Environment**. Personal presentation refers to physical features like height, skin color, beauty, hair, body shape, and artifacts we garnish ourselves with. Through our characteristics and artifacts, we send nonverbal messages. For example, men with long hair are not perceived as traditional. The latter, environment, indicates the settings. It refers to nonverbal cues sent by placing objects and furniture (Leonard, 2012). The environment type is excluded in the present study because Heard and her ex-husband, Depp, do not arrange the settings. Therefore, each nonverbal cue will be defined according to the category within and then analyzed pragmatically following Grice's maxims, as clarified in the next section.

III. METHODOLOGY

The researchers' concern is with the classifications and investigation of the types and sub-types of nonverbal communication. Hence, the current study follows a qualitative research design. It is used "when we don't know what to expect, how to define the issues, or lack an understanding of why and how" (ACAPS, 2012, p. 7). The researchers adopted Leonard's (2012) framework and Grice's (1975) maxims to achieve this goal. The analysis data was collected from (28) video recordings of Depp versus Heard's publicized trial. The videos of the trial were taken from Sky News' YouTube channel. To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the study, the videos were carefully watched, and the key moments were precisely selected based on their relevance. Days, for instance, 5,6,14 refer to the day of the trial recording. Some of the video recordings were divided into two parts. Therefore (part 2) refers to the second part of the recording within the same day. Some nonverbal communication appeared throughout the whole (28) videos of the trial, like the personal presentation. The rest of the nonverbal communication emerged at critical moments. The researchers have decided to choose nonverbal communication, which plays a crucial part in the trajectory of court events. They have reflected these key moments in (10) screenshots from (four) videos within the same day or other days during court processing. Each screenshot has a time-stamp that represents the beginning of utilizing nonverbal communication. After selecting the nonverbal communication, the researchers first apply Leonard's (2012) framework to classify nonverbal communication into several types and sub-types with their sub-sub-types within the model. Then, some categories, subcategories, and sub-subcategories can be analyzed alone, and others can be analyzed long-term using verbal communication to make it the context. The nonverbal analysis adds more depth to the linguistic analysis. It might assure or contradict it. The researchers also follow pragmatic aspects by examining the compatibility of the analysis to Grice's maxims and sub-maxims.

Finally, the researchers provide two tables that display the frequencies and percentages of nonverbal communication used by Depp and Heard. The researchers have chosen (six) videos related to their testimonies: three related to Depp's testimony and the other three related to Heard. Depp's testimony lasted for about (eight hours) while Heard lasted for about (16 hours). The researchers carefully watched the videos and manually counted the nonverbal communication used by each actor. The frequencies of nonverbal communication are limited to videos (vid 5 part 2, vid 6 part 1, and vid 2) related to Depp's testimony and videos (14, 15, 16) related to Heard's testimony. There are three reasons for choosing videos of testimony specifically. First, the researchers' focal point will be on a limited number of videos to produce accurate results. Second, the camera focuses on Depp and Heard for many hours during the actors' testimony. Third, they are most likely to behave normally; they are not under high pressure because the questions are directed by their lawyers. The following equation counts the percentage of nonverbal communication: the frequency of each category is multiplied by 100 and then divided by the total number of categories. The same equation is applied to the subcategories and sub-subcategories. In the first two tables, the researchers provide the frequencies and percentages of the sub-subcategories of nonverbal communication, the subcategories, and finally, the categories. The tables' last slot indicates the main categories' total frequency. After that, the researchers display other figures, focusing on the highly utilized types and sub-types with their sub-sub-types for more clarity. The moments of the camera shifts during the testimony are excluded. Additionally, the seconds of nonverbal communication before and after the testimony or the rest time are also neglected. Moreover, the actors give their testimony in isolation. Therefore, proxemics, the distance between people, and haptics, touches directed to the others, are not included. Besides, chronemics (time) and personal presentation, which can be noticed through different days and outfits are set aside. Lastly, eye contact, which is visual communication, cannot be shown through numbers. The excluded and included categories are analyzed in detail in the next section.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

In this section, the researchers investigate each category, subcategory, and sub subcategory of nonverbal communication proposed by Leonard's (2012) framework and used by Hollywood actors. Then, each category, subcategory, and sub-sub category of nonverbal communication is analyzed alone or in line with verbal communication to contextualize the situation by Grice's maxims and sub-maxims. At the end of this section, two tables show the

frequencies and percentages of nonverbal communication used by both actors. Then, the researchers offer more tables and figures for extra clarity.

A. *Personal Presentation and Chronemics (Time)*

The researchers started with nonverbal communication represented by personal presentation and chronemics, which refers to the time throughout the trial days since they are the first to be noticed. Depp appears in a formal suit, waistcoat, shirt, and tie, adopting a hair-down style in the first three days of the trial, nearly covering half of his cheek. Then, for the rest of the days of the trial, he adopts a ponytail hairstyle. Unlike him, Heard adopts different outfits, most of them formal. She wears a suit, a striped shirt, and a dress with a light jacket. Moreover, she changes her hairstyles between formal and informal: bun, braided bun, and wavy open hair with one side pinned. Depp wears formal clothes throughout the court days. He delivers information that he respects the formality of the place. He adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative.' The change in his hairstyle is informative of his willingness to move from hiding himself to facing the world. His nonverbal communication enriches his speech during the trial because he explains how he and his children are humiliated for not facing the allegations claimed by his ex-wife. He follows the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative.' His presentation during the trial days aligns with the quantity maxim as being informative through his choices without exaggeration. On the other hand, Heard adopts different hairstyles and wears different outfits during the trial days. She swings between formality and informality, though she is in the courtroom. Heard violates the first sub maxim, 'be informative.' The diversity in her style may show her willingness to follow her own rules, self-confidence, or dare. Adopting different styles inconsistent with the court setting violates the second sub maxim, 'don't be more or less informative' by providing excessive information, whether formal or informal, following her or the setting rules.

Following the formality of the setting through Depp's outfit expresses his sincerity and respectfulness of the trial expectations. Even the change in hairstyle shows a disciplined image. He adheres to the quality sub maxim 'don't lie.' The outfits and hairstyle come with the quality maxim since they truly reflect his intentions of being respectful and disciplined (do not communicate anything you are unsure about). Conversely, the diversity in Heard's outfits and hairstyles may reflect her sincere personality of following her own rules; she follows the sub maxim 'don't lie' but conflicts with the court's seriousness. She may be perceived as not being serious when she adopts wavy open hair with one side pinned. The style is incompatible with the seriousness of the case and the court setting. She violates the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. The formality of Depp's clothes throughout the events of the trial is highly relevant to the seriousness of the atmosphere of the court. He adheres to the 'maxim of relation.' Moreover, his consistency in wearing formal outfits clarifies his respect for the courtroom. He follows the 'maxim of manner.' Meanwhile, the variety between casualty and formality in Heard's clothes and hairstyles, like the wavy hair, violates the relation maxim since they are irrelevant to the significance of the court setting. Her style shifting also hints at ambiguity in how she wants to appear. For instance, one day, she wears a suit; the other day, she wears a dress. She is not clear in her attitude toward the courtroom atmosphere. She breaches the maxim of manner.

B. *Vocalics*

The second cue of nonverbal communication is vocalics. The para-language of Depp is represented by speaking slowly with low pitch, pauses, and fillers like uh, um, while Heard is precisely the opposite. She speaks fast with a high pitch and rarely utilizes fillers. Speaking slowly with many fillers misleads the observer of the consequences of the events. He violates the sub maxim 'be informative.' Besides, the slow pace and fillers excessively lengthen the directed message. He breaks up the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative.' It will eventually breach the quantity maxim by not providing the correct information. On the other hand, Heard's assertive tone and lack of interruptions in the flow of the speech create a concise message. She adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative' without extra unnecessary information, which makes her follow the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative.' Depp, on the other hand, violates the quality maxim. Using fillers with a hesitant tone shows a lack of assertiveness and confidence. Ultimately, the speaker will unintentionally be perceived as a liar. He breaches the sub maxim 'don't lie' even if the reality is the opposite. Moreover, hesitation is perceived as a lack of confidence in what he is saying. He violates the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. In Heard's case, speaking confidently with rare utilization of fillers indicates sincerity. She follows the sub maxim 'don't lie'. However, over-assurance and lack of evidence may raise doubts about the speaker's credibility in other scenes. She violates the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. Utilizing fillers and speaking slowly could indicate that Depp is getting time to make his message related to the context of speech. He adheres to the 'maxim of relation.' Fillers, low pitch, and the slow pace of speaking might reduce the clarity of the direct message. It could be difficult for the observers to follow. He breaches the 'maxim of manner'. Meanwhile, the smooth flow of speech and the assertive tone generally indicate relevance to Heard's nonverbal communication context. She follows the 'maxim of relation'. Additionally, the smooth flow of Heard's speech, high pitch, and assertive tone aid in sending an unambiguous message to the followers that aligns with the manner maxim.

C. *Kinesics*



Screenshot 1: Day 6 (Part1): Illustrator Gesture_9:39

Screenshot 2: Day 6 (Part1) Illustrator Gesture_9:51

Another category of nonverbal communication is kinesics. It appears when Depp raises his index finger in a circular motion to describe how the quarrel with Heard commences and terminates in a loop. Then, he raises his hand vertically to indicate how it was accelerated but still in the same loop as indicated in screenshots (1-2) above. He said, "**The argument would start here [he uses his finger to indicate the starting point], and then it would roll around and become this circular thing of its own so you get back to the beginning essentially of the argument now it is heightened even more [he raises his finger] but it is still circular and there is no way in or out**".

The circular gesture and the vertical rise of the index finger add a visual explanation to the quarrel between him and his ex-wife and how it is accelerated. Depp adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative'. Nonverbal communication is informative and pictures the verbal message without any sophistication. Depp follows the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative'. The nonverbal communication replicates Depp's testimony. He uses "start here" to indicate the argument's beginning. At the same time, he visualizes his speech by utilizing his index finger to hint at the starting point. Then, he says the words "roll around" to show the circular motion of the quarrels. At the same moment of speech, he portrays these quarrels by drawing a circle in the air. After that, he describes how the arguments accelerated to their worst state using the word "heightened." It is also visualized by the vertical motion of his index finger. He employs the prepositions (in) and (out) to reflect the idea of the impossibility of escaping the argument. The idea is wonderfully mirrored by the circular shape he draws in the air.

The combination of nonverbal and verbal communication with the same consistency indicates that the gestures genuinely represent realistic events. He follows the sub maxim 'don't lie'. The gestures also indicate that these events are happening repetitively and quickly. He adheres to the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. Depp fulfills both sub-maxims of the quality maxim. Furthermore, the gestures are relevant to verbal context since they visualize the speech and reflect the consequences of the events. He adheres to the 'maxim of relation'. Lastly, the visual representation of the quarrels between him and his ex-wife photographs his testimony, offering an unambiguous message to the observers about the conflict between the spouses. He follows the 'maxim of manner'.



Screenshot 3: Day 5(Part2): Mouth Blocking_2:37:31

Screenshot 4: Day15: Mouth Blocking_38:38

Another nonverbal cue both actors use in different situations is the blocking gesture. Depp uses his index finger and thumb to squeeze his lips before he states that "**she [Heard] seemed to be, she seemed to be the [he raised the index finger and the thumb finger] she seemed to be the perfect [silence] partner in a sense, in my mind for me.**" On the other hand, Heard used her hand to block her mouth as she touched her nose when she said, "**I was falling in love with them [Depp's kids].**" The screenshots (3-4) above illustrate the whole picture.

The adaptor, lip squeezing, used by Depp, has several indications. It might reflect that he is beholding information, is hesitant, has inner conflict, or is in disbelief in what he expected Heard to be and what she truly is. Depp's statement duplicates all the above assumptions because he says "**she seemed to be**" three times before stating the first word, "**the perfect,**" followed by silence. Then, he says, "Partner" and expresses the idea that a "perfect partner" only exists in his

head by using the pronouns "in my mind" and "for me." He is informative in his nonverbal communication, but at the same time, he is being less informative than he should be. His nonverbal communication, lip pressing, hints, he is holding information. Conversely, Heard employs mouth blocking by touching her nose after saying, "**I was falling in love with them [Depp's kids].**" Nonverbal communication might indicate uneasiness, conflict emotions towards the kids, or holding extra information. She violates the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative'. The words "falling in love" clearly show the state of attachment to Depp's kids, while the nonverbal communication, mouth blocking, hints there is a hidden emotion and unspoken information. She violates the sub maxim 'be informative'.

Mouth blocking reflects Depp's hesitation, skepticism, disbelief, and inner conflict between the past and the present. The emotions are truly assured by his repetition of the phrase "seemed to be" and the silence following the word "perfect" before completing the phrase "the perfect partner." They are indications of the sincerity of his nonverbal cue. He follows the sub maxim 'don't lie.' At the same time, his nonverbal communication, lip pressing, suggests hesitation, emphasized by the phrase "seemed to be," indicating he is sharing information he is unsure about. He violates the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. Moreover, lip pressing aligns with the context of Depp's speech. The gesture of harshly pressing lips signals the state of hesitation and disbelief of what he thought his ex-wife was and what she truly is. The nonverbal cue is closely relevant to the attestation that comes after. The repetition of the phrase "seemed to be" and the hesitation before completing the phrase "the perfect partner" further support nonverbal communication. He adheres to the 'maxim of relation'. The harsh lip squeezing also reflects deeply hidden emotions of bitterness, disappointment, and pain. These emotions are also reflected verbally by the repetition of the phrase "she seemed to be" to avoid completing a positive utterance of his ex-wife. His nonverbal communication expresses a clear message to the audience about what he is currently going through and what he used to think of his ex-wife. He follows the 'maxim of manner'.

In the case of Heard, the uneasiness and nervousness reflected by mouth blocking and nose touching hint hiding information that might contradict what she has said before. Her nonverbal communication, preceded by her verbal communication, raises doubts about her genuine feelings. She breaches the sub maxim 'don't lie.' The nonverbal communication indicates she might hide her genuine emotions toward the kids and share the information she is unsure about. She violates the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about.' Furthermore, the nonverbal communication represented by mouth blocking and nose touching is highly irrelevant to the context. Nonverbal communication occurs immediately after Heard's words, reflecting many emotions like a contradiction of feelings towards the kids and a state of discomfort. She breaks up the 'relation maxim.' Finally, the nonverbal communication, nose touching and mouth blocking, and the sentences that come before all raise ambiguity. The nonverbal communication refutes the testimony, making it unclear to the audience how she feels about the kids. She violates the 'maxim of manner'.



Screenshot 5: Day15: Crying Face_4:12:07



Screenshot 6: Day15: Happy Face_4:13:31

Another scene in which nonverbal communication of facial expressions shifts from a sorrowful to an elated face is shown on screenshots (5-6). Heard is too emotional, sentimental, and shedding tears. Her facial expressions express deep sadness. Before going to the red carpet, she checked for bruises and made "**sure that nothing like there would be no marks on her, and they just looked like this other thing on this red carpet when it was just, it was not like that [crying] embarrassing [wiping tears] you know it is a hard time, I am sure it is a hard time.**" Then, she is asked by her lawyer about her wedding day, and after less than a minute and a half, she smiles and says "**I met with Johnny in the hallway. I thought he looked so handsome**".

The shedding and wiping tears reflect the terrible treatment she experiences in her relationship with her ex-husband. Verbal communication ensures the contextualization of nonverbal communication. She is speaking in fragments with some incomplete ideas, emphasizing the horrible treatment she is experiencing that makes her unable to constitute a complete sentence. The nonverbal communication illustrates the communicative fragments. It is informative of the treatment she used to get and her psychological state. She adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative'. In less than a minute and a half, when asked about her wedding day, her elated face aligns with remembering a beautiful memory of her husband. However, it contradicts the first scene in which she is in tears because of his terrible treatment. Her nonverbal communication, represented by her elated face, contradicts the trial context. She is in the courtroom because she claims

her husband abused her. The sudden change from a miserable face to an elated one toward the same person provides excessive, unnecessary information. She violates the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative'.

The abrupt change of feeling from shedding and wiping tears to expressing elated facial expressions in less than a minute and a half raises many inquiries about her sincerity and truthfulness. She violates the sub maxim 'don't lie.' The fallacies of her nonverbal communication allow her opponent (Depp) to bolster his testimony (Abbas et al., 2024). Moreover, the quick shift in her nonverbal communication raises questions about the seriousness of her assault allegations. She breaks up the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. Furthermore, the sad facial emotions are relevant to the terrible treatment she endured in her relationship with her ex-husband. The sudden shift to elated facial expressions while describing her wedding day, in less than a minute and a half, is irrelevant to the context of the court setting. The abrupt shift reduces the seriousness of her allegations in the previous testimony and undermines the value of her emotions. She violates the 'maxim of relation.' Finally, the drastic shift from deep emotion of suffering to extreme thrill in the blink of an eye conveys a blurry image to the audience. The observers might wonder about the credibility of her agony, whether she tries to cope with her pain or reflects on the love she used to have for him. She breaches the 'maxim of manner'.

D. Proxemics



Screenshot 7: Day15: Frozen Posture _5:44:57



Screenshot 8: Day15: Shoulder Shrugging _5:45:02

Proxemics is distinctly represented when Heard is down the stand and suddenly freezes in her place when she sees Depp on her way from a short distance. In reaction to her behavior, Depp shrugs his shoulder and goes off her way. Screenshots (7-8) clarify their nonverbal communication. Depp's response is elucidated by shoulder shrugging and getting off her way. His gestures indicate astonishment, indifference, and avoiding confrontation. He adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative.' He steps off her way without extra nonverbal communication that might complicate the situation. He follows the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative'. The shoulder shrugging and moving away occur naturally because they are immediate reactions and reflect his ex-wife's nonverbal communication. He follows the sub maxim 'don't lie.' Moving away shows his indifference to her behavior and his desire to avoid confrontation. His gestures align with his previous testimonies. He adheres to the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'.

On the other side, the frozen posture of Heard the moment she confronts her ex-husband speaks a lot of her. The posture can be easily interrupted as a natural reaction to a person whom she accuses of assaulting and abusing her. She adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative.' Her frozen posture echoes her state of fear without misleading the observers with fewer or extra nonverbal cues. She follows the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative'. Besides, the frozen posture is linked to fear, shock, and astonishment. Her reaction aligns with the accusation of abuse towards her ex-husband. She adheres to the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. If the frozen posture is a natural reaction to seeing her abuser, it reflects her honesty in her allegations. She follows the sub maxim 'don't lie'.

Moreover, Depp's gestures are related to seeing his ex-wife's reaction. His gestures constitute an answer to her frozen posture. His nonverbal communication hints that he is uninterested in her reaction and does not want to accelerate the situation by stepping away. He adheres to the 'maxim of relation'. Depp's nonverbal communication also expresses the clarity of his personality, which is apathetic and avoidant. Accordingly, Heard's reaction is also highly related to the context of the situation. The frozen posture is related to feelings of fear and the horrible memories she used to have with her abuser. She follows the 'maxim of relation'. Besides, the message is clear in Heard's frozen posture. Her reaction is a reflection of the terrible memories she used to have with her abuser, ex-husband. She adheres to the 'maxim of manner'.

E. Haptics



Screenshot 9: Day 25: Haptics and Mirroring _44:19



Screenshot 10: Day 25: Haptics _44:20

On the last day of the trial, nonverbal communication is symbolized lucidly by the haptic cues using mirroring. It is to copy the behavior of others. It is performed noticeably when Depp's lawyers hug each other after they have won the case; Heard, after looking at them, raises her right hand and touches the upper arm of her lawyer. Subsequently, she hugs both of her lawyers as shown in screenshots (9-10). Heard touches her man lawyer and then hugs her lawyers only after seeing her opponents hugging each other. She might avoid comparison and seek solidarity. She adheres to the sub maxim 'be informative.' The sequence of the events indicates that she touches and hugs her lawyers only after mirroring her rivals. She is adding extra unnecessary information. She breaches the sub maxim 'don't be more or less informative'.

The consequence of the events raises doubts about her honesty in expressing her feelings toward her lawyers. She hugs them only after watching her opponents. She violates the sub maxim 'don't communicate anything you are not sure about'. Her reaction does not come spontaneously and naturally. It is just a shadowing of others' behaviors. She breaches the sub maxim 'don't lie'. Above all, her reaction is closely related to the reaction of Depp's lawyers. She is directly reflecting on what is happening on the other side of the stage of the court. At the same time, her reaction is irrelevant to the context of losing the case. She hugs her lawyer even though she has lost the case. She violates the 'maxim of relation'. Lastly, her mirroring of the behaviors of Depp's lawyers sends an ambiguous message of her nonverbal communication. It is unclear whether she seeks solidarity, avoids social comparison, or fakes victory. She breaches the 'maxim of manner'.

V. FINDINGS

The nonverbal communication used by Depp and Heard in the courtroom is summarized in tables 1 and 2 below to show the frequency of each type. Each table consists of two categories: kinesics and vocalics. The tables also include the subcategories of kinesics and their sub-subcategories. Table 1 displays a high use of eyebrow-raising (3,064), furrowing (1,160), lowering (707), looking down (776), smiling (616), eye closing (496), and squinting (418). Depp also highly uses head movements (2,896) and gestures (1,256). It also shows a few uses of downward movement of the mouth corners (16), eye-rolling (12), and lip licking (8). Besides, the table indicates a standing and sitting twice by Depp. He does not cry or bite his lips during his testimony. In Table 2, Heard highly utilizes eyebrow-raising (3,120), furrowing (1,824), lip pressing (1,104), smiling (864), and downward movement of the mouth corners (560). Additionally, she excessively uses head movements (7,296), and she also utilizes gestures (1,548). The table hints at a few uses of eyebrow lowering (32) and lip biting (64). As the table indicates, Heard cries three times and does not use postures during her testimony.

TABLE 1
FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGES OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION USED BY DEPP

Kinesics										Vocalics (fillers)																	
Gestures			Facial Expressions						Head Movements		Postures	192															
Adaptors	Emblems	Illustrators	Eyebrow			Lips		Eye		Looking	Nodding	Shaking	Tilting	Drooping	Standing	Sitting	1,5%										
352	56	848	Smiling	Crying	Downward movements of mouth corners	Raising	Lowering	Furrowing	Biting	Pressing	Licking	Closing	Squinting	Rolling	Up	Down	776	776	952	664	504	2	2				
28 %			67,5 %			0 %		0 %		0 %		26,7 %		50 %		26,7 %		32,8 %		22,9 %		17,4 %		50 %		50 %	
1,256			1,256			2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896		2,896	
10,5%			616	0	16	3,064	707	1,160	0	272	8	496	418	12	256	776	24,2%		0%								
			7,8 %	0 %	0,2 %	39,2 %	9 %	14,8 %	0 %	3,4 %	0,1 %	6,3 %	5,3 %	0,1 %	3,2 %	9,9 %											
						7,801																					
						65,2 %																					
						11,957																					
						98,4 %																					
						12,149																					

TABLE 2
FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGES OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION USED BY HEARD

Kinesics													Vocalics (filters)				
Gestures			Facial Expressions								Head Movements		Postures	128			
Adaptors	Emblems	Illustrators			Eyebrow		Lips		Eye	Looking	Nodding	Shaking	Tilting	Drooping	Standing	Siting	0,7 %
304	224	1,020									1,616	2,768	2,656	256	0	0	
19,6 %	14,4 %	65,8 %	Smiling	Crying	Downward movements of mouth corners	Raising	Lowering	Furrowing	Biting	Pressing	Licking	Closing	Squinting	Rolling	Up	Down	
1,548																	
8,5 %			864	3	560	3,120	32	1,824	64	1,104	352	304	368	124	160	384	
			9,1 %	0 %	6 %	33,6 %	0,3 %	19,6 %	0,6 %	11,9 %	3,8 %	3,2 %	3,9 %	1,3 %	1,7 %	4,1 %	
									9,263								
									51,1%								
									18,107								
									99,2%								
									18,235								

Figure 1 comparatively presents the five subcategories of nonverbal communication employed by both actors, Depp and Heard, indicating the most highly used subcategories.



Figure 1. Depp's and Heard's Nonverbal Communication

The two subcategories of kinesics that are highly used by both actors are the facial expressions and head movements as clarified in Figures 2 and 3 below.

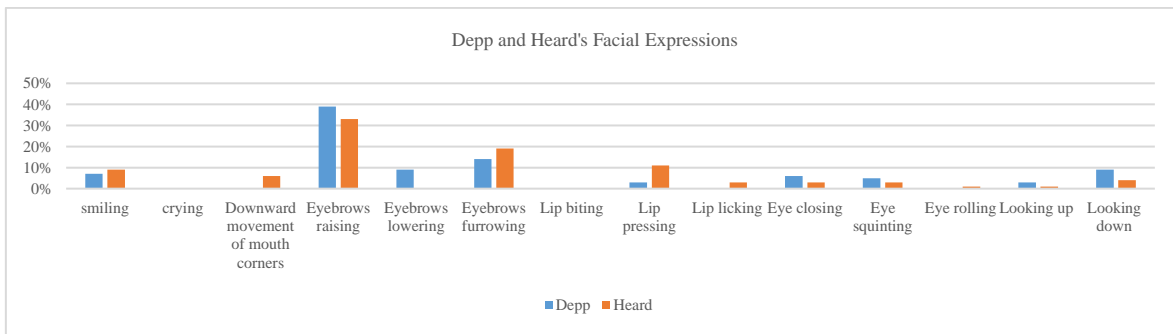


Figure 2. Percentages of Depp's and Heard's Facial Expressions

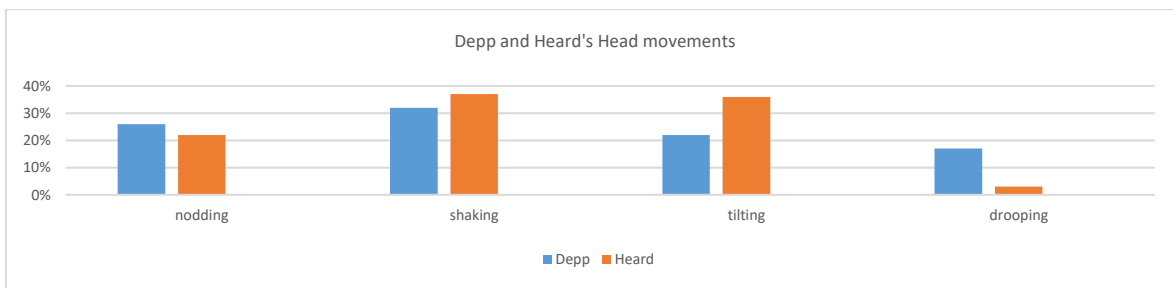


Figure 3. Percentages of Depp's and Heard's Head Movements

VI. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

After a detailed analysis, the researchers noticed that Heard violates most of the Grice maxims and sub-maxims in more than one incident. Depp, on the other hand, in most cases, adheres to most of Grice's maxims and sub-maxims. He frequently employs nonverbal communication, even though Heard's testimony lasts about (16) hours and Depp's for about (8) hours. Tables 1 and 2 indicate that Depp utilizes looking up (256) times, eye closing (496), squinting (418), and fillers (192) more than Heard who uses looking up (160) times, eye closing (304), squinting (368) and fillers (128). Looking up, eye closing, squinting, and fillers indicate remembering events, especially if combined with the slow pace of speech, low pitch, and pauses. They mean that Depp is reflecting incidents from his memory that represent events in real life. Additionally, Depp looks down (776) more than Heard, who looks down just (384). Looking down is a sign of regret, specifically if it is combined with eyebrows lowering (707), head drooping (504), and shaking (952). If we combine Depp's vocalists with his facial expressions and gestures, we will find that he is living the moment, so he speaks slowly. He is experiencing the same feeling he had previously. Heard, on the other side, overuses head nodding (1,616), shaking (2,768) and tilting (2,656). Nodding hints at a desire to please others, shaking shows defensiveness, and tilting expresses submissiveness. Besides, she utilizes much lip pressing (1,104) with a few lip biting (64). They are indications that the speaker might be holding information, regretting incidents, expressing sadness, or having inner conflict. They are crucial in perceiving Heard as insincere and reflecting Depp as the victim. Her nonverbal communication indicates that she is using "emotional blackmail" by accusing her ex-husband of abusing her to gain the audience's sympathy. In this finding, the researchers agree with Najem and Abbas's (2024) study and Abbas et al. (2025). Surprisingly, Heard's nonverbal communication is influential in turning the audience against her, consciously or unconsciously, and eventually losing the case.

VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, nonverbal communication refers to the visible cues that lead a perceiver to the name of the truth. This research paper has made clear that nonverbal communication can visualize verbal communication. When the nonverbal communication aligns with the vocal message, the visual picture will be complete and meaningful. When nonverbal communication contradicts the articulated context, the visual picture will be distorted since it is incompatible with verbal communication. Nonverbal communication reveals facts that are not stated merely with words. Hence, it is safer to rely on nonverbal communication. It is challenging to be fully controlled. Trying to mislead, nonverbal communication will either look fake or exaggerated since other nonverbal cues will reveal the truth. It is impossible to thoroughly control them, even when the speaker is an actor. Additionally, combining more than one type of nonverbal communication in the same situation offers a sincere visual image. In some situations, nonverbal communication alone is enough to comprehend what is happening, as in the case of Proxemics and Haptics. In other situations, nonverbal communication sometimes requires verbal communication to contextualize the situation, according to which the visual picture becomes sincere and meaningful.

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Kawther A. Hussein got her M.A degrees in English Language/ linguistics from the University of Baghdad, College of Education for Women/ Department of English, Iraq, in 2018. Hussein's fields of interests include Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis. You can reach her at: kawther.a@uobaghdad.edu.iq ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-1263-2945>



Nawal F. Abbas has a PhD in English Language and Linguistics and currently is teaching at the Department of English, College of Education for Women, University of Baghdad. Her research interests include but not limited to Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, Stylistics, Corpus Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. You can reach her at: nawal.fadhil@coeduw.uobaghdad.edu.iq ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-2608-6909>