

Co-operativity maxims: Traditional Gricean maxims versus the ones given in the book

The handbook gives a list of co-operativity maxims that differs from the traditional maxims first developed by H. P. Grice. While the book's version is in arguably superior in some ways, most semantic and pragmatic literature makes use of the original Gricean maxims. Therefore, it is worthwhile to note how the two compare.

Traditional maxims (Grice 1967)	Handbook Maxims
Relevance <i>'keep to the topic'</i>	Relevance <i>'keep to the topic'</i>
Quality <i>'say only what you know is true'</i>	Informativeness <i>'tell the hearer what they need to know'</i>
Quantity <i>'don't say more or less than you need to'</i>	
	Brevity <i>'don't say too much'</i>
Manner <i>'speak in a way that the hearer will understand'</i>	Clarity <i>'speak in a way that the hearer will understand'</i>