CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

  As human beings, it is undeniable that we need to communicate with each other. Aristotle says that man is by nature a social animal. Humans always need to talk to other human beings, like friends or parents, or sometimes we even talk to themselves. When we talk to other people, we are involved in a conversation process. Conversation is an 'oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinion, or ideas' ("Conversation," def. 2). In this process, we say things: it could be news about our cousin's wedding, our new shoes, our problem and its solution, or maybe we just want to say 'Hi'.

  One more thing that we cannot exclude when we have a conversation is joke. According to *Dictionary.com*, a joke is something spoken, written, or done

with a humorous intention. The key word here is *humorous*. Furthermore, humorous means 'causing laughter and amusement' ("Humorous," def. 1). Thus, a joke is something which makes us laugh or causes amusement.

This is an example of the joke taken from *Richardwiseman.com* which is said to be the joke which received the highest rating than other jokes:

> "Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps, "My friend is dead! What can I do?". The operator says "Calm down. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There is a silence, then a shot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says "OK, now what?"

Most of us may always deal with this kind of story, which is usually used to 'refresh' a conversation. Some people may use this to give color to a conversation so it would not be too assertive, for example, as an opening to a speech.

Some of us may now wonder what the measurement of a joke is. Therefore, we may ask, when can a joke be funny while others could be very wry? What makes laughter? What makes a joke a joke? Semantic-Script Theory of Victor Raskin is one humor theory that attempts to answer these questions aside from the other two theories of superiority which 'accentuate the (negative) attitude of the producer and/or user of humor towards its target' and theories of release or relief which focus on 'the recipient of the humor or more specifically, on the psychological effects humor allegedly brings about the recipient' (Krikmann 1, 2).

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In the Semantic-Script Theory of Humor, or, as it is sometimes called, theory of incongruity, it is assumed that a joke contains two different scripts and it becomes funny when there is a change between these two scripts. One of the ways these scripts can change is when someone does not observe the set of rules of conversation, which we know as the Gricean maxims.

The non-observance of the principles includes adding more or less information when speaking, saying something that is believed to be false or untrue, saying something that is unrelated to what is required, and also saying something in an obscure way or not in a brief way, etcetera.

When we talk with other people, we sometimes do not say what we intend directly because we want to be polite or to reduce harshness. Some people violate the principles also to mislead another person or to hide what they really want to say. These forms of non-observance is said to trigger the scripts to change from one script to a different script.

I will use Raskin's theory as the foundation of my thesis. The topic of my thesis is *The Analysis of Couple Jokes Using the Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims in Getfrank website*. This topic is chosen to help people who study jokes, especially myself, to deeper understanding of Raskin's theory of incongruity and also to help sharpen the sensitivity of linguistic phenomenon that happens around us. Furthermore, since this topic deals with the Gricean maxims, people are expected to comprehend more about what is meant behind an utterance. The Getfrank Website itself is chosen as the data source because this website provides

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a great number of data I need and all of them are compatible with what I want to discuss.

(702 words)

Statement of the Problem

I will discuss some problems in this thesis:

1. What type of non-observance of Gricean maxims is found in the joke?

2. How does the non-observance of the Gricean maxims lead to the incongruity process and create the humorous effect?

Purpose of the Study

1. To find out what non-observance of Gricean maxims is found in the text.

2. To explain how the non-observances create incongruity and how they create a humorous effect.

Method of Research

To complete this thesis, I take the data from Getfrank Website by finding some jokes related to the topic and make sure that those jokes fit to my purpose – one joke should contain at least one violation of Grice's cooperative principle and it also has to be incongruous. After that, I will try to find the violation of Grice's cooperative principles and the implicatures. The last step is that I analyze the scripts that are in the text, find the words

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that are related to the scripts and explain how they shift and create the incongruity.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is about Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and the last is Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is about the basic theory that I will use to analyze all my data which includes Raskin's Theory of Semantic-Script Theory of Humor and also Grice's cooperative principle. Chapter Three contains my data and my analysis of those data. The last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis I conduct. This thesis also contains Table of Contents and Abstract before the first chapter, and also Bibliography and Appendix after the chapters.

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