CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to present the conclusion of my analysis from the previous chapter. I also want to comment on the non-observance of the Gricean Maxims in the jokes about marriage. I analyse twelve data in this thesis and from those data, I find various types of non-observance of the Gricean Maxims which make the jokes funny.

From the twelve data I have analysed in Chapter Three, I find ten data in which the speakers **flout the maxim** and four data which show that the speakers **violate the maxim**. Seven out of twelve data show that the speakers flout the **maxim of manner**, which is the maxim that is flouted the most. The second most often flouted maxim is the **maxim of quantity** with a total of six data. The third most often flouted maxim is the **maxim of relation**, with a total of two data. Lastly, the **maxim of quality** is the least flouted maxim, which is found in only one out of twelve data.

Throughout the analysis there is no case of **infringing a maxim**, **opting out of a maxim** or **suspending a maxim**. However, I find some of the data that

involve more than one maxim; in data 1, the maxim of manner, the maxim of quantity and the maxim of relation are flouted. In data 6, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of relation and the maxim of manner are flouted. In data 10, the speaker violates the maxim as well as flouting the maxim of relation and the maxim of manner. In data 2, 3, 5 and 11, there are two maxims which are not observed in each joke. In data 4, 7, 8, 9 and 12, only one maxim is flouted in each joke.

As mentioned earlier, in my analysis the maxim of manner is the type of maxim which is most often flouted. In my opinion, flouting the maxim of manner is effective for creating a joke, because the speaker sometimes produces a long-winded and ambiguous utterance to make the hearer think of something else outside the topic. It usually happens when the speaker does not want to make his or her meaning clear to the hearer; thus his or her utterance is not to the point but long-winded. This makes a joke funny. A good example is data 1, in which the wife asks how powerful she is for her husband. The husband replies to his wife with a long-winded response because he does not want to make his meaning clear.

The maxim of quantity is the second most often flouted maxim in my analysis. I believe that this usually happens when the speaker gives either more or less information to the hearer than the situation requires. This additional information is actually not really needed in that situation, but the speaker wants the hearer to interpret something within his utterance. This unnecessary additional information is what makes a joke funny. An example is in data 12, when the husband says, "I heard, but she was speaking to you."

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I find that flouting the maxim of relation occurs in some of the data. I have observed that in those jokes, the speakers give information which is not related to the previous topic. Yet the speaker wants the hearer to think about something else. That is when the situation becomes funny. This is observed in data 6. It can be seen when the wife answers with something that is totally unrelated to the previous topic.

I also find that violating the maxim happens in some jokes I have analysed. Violating the maxim happens when the speaker does not give the true information to the hearer so that he misleads the hearer. The speaker tends to hide something because he does not want the hearer to know about the speaker's real intention. This is clearly seen in data 4, when the father misleads his children into thinking that he and his wife are getting divorced. From this, I can conclude that when a speaker wants to hide his intention, he misleads the hearer; thus he violates the maxim.

The maxim of quality is the maxim flouted the least in my data. It seems to me that flouting the maxim of quality happens when the speaker tells the hearer the opposite of what really happens.

In addition, infringing a maxim, suspending a maxim and opting out of a maxim are not found in my data. Infringing a maxim is not found because the characters in my data give their utterance not in the conditions of drunkenness or nervousness. Suspending the maxim is not found either, because the speakers in my data do not cover up anything. It is also rather impossible to find opting out of a maxim in a joke when the participants cooperate with each other. Because of these reasons, these types of non-observance are unlikely to appear in jokes.

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Script incongruity occurs when there is more than one script that exists at the same time in the joke. These scripts are triggered by words or sequence of words that appear in the joke. The non-observance of the maxim helps to achieve this situation, since it may simply cause a misunderstanding or a funny atmosphere between the participants. It also helps to create another script which replaces the first one that is followed by the reader. This new script brings an unexpected point to the conversation, and this new point is what makes the jokes funny.

In this thesis, I analyse the data by using conversational implicature of the non-observance of the maxim together with Raskin's theory of script incongruity. In accordance with my analysis, it is clearly seen that each joke has hidden meaning. After doing this research for three semesters, I can say that the research has increased my knowledge and understanding about utterances, including those with hidden meaning, which are often given in an indirect message such as when people do not want to hurt other people's feelings.

I have some suggestions for my fellow students who are interested in doing similar kinds of research. First, they have to correctly choose the topic they will analyse. It will be easier for them to focus on one topic and it is better to categorise the jokes. Next, they have to make sure that they have chosen the correct data for the research, since not all the data in the websites can be used for the analysis. Some of them cannot be analysed with either the non-observance of the Gricean maxim or Raskin's theory of script incongruity. Lastly, I hope my analysis can be a good source and useful to those who study a topic similar to mine. (1128 words)

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