

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

These days some people are busy with their activities that will make them stressed. To solve that problem, we need to do something which does not make us bored. One of the things we can do is reading some jokes. We can read jokes in our free time. When we read jokes, we can laugh and relax. Jokes can be found in novels, films, or magazines.

There are so many ways for us to laugh. Laughing has some benefits for our health and has good effect for our feeling. Laughing is important to do in our daily life because humor and laughter can strengthen our immune system, boost our energy, diminish pain, and protect us from the damaging effects of stress (“Laughter is the Best Medicine”). The statement shows us how important laughing is as there are many benefits that we can get.

The title of my thesis is Analysis of the Non-Observance of Gricean Maxims in Online Marriage Jokes. The reason why I choose this topic is because I

am curious about how to understand English jokes and know what the speaker in online jokes wants to imply.

The type of jokes which I analyze is marriage jokes. In my opinion, it is easier to read and analyze this type of jokes because there are only two people who are talking in the dialogue. Therefore, it is not difficult to find which utterance breaks the Gricean maxims.

I take the data from the Internet. In the Internet, I can get a lot of jokes from several websites and it does not take a long time. There are many varieties of jokes that we can find on the Internet, such as marriage jokes, couple jokes, family jokes, kid jokes, and school jokes. The practicality of the Internet makes me decide to find the data source in it.

The area of linguistics that my topic belongs to is Pragmatics. "Pragmatics is the study of the aspects of meaning and language use that are dependent on the speaker, the addressee and other features of the context of utterance" ("What is Pragmatics"). The specific theory used is the non-observance of the Gricean Maxims.

The theory which becomes the basis of my analysis is from an English language philosopher, Paul Grice (1975). "One of his central ideas is that, when interpreting an utterance of a sentence, one assumes that the speaker has complied with a number of principles ensuring that conversation is a cooperative activity." ("Maxim of Conversation"). His principle is "maxims of conversation".

Grice proposes four types of flouting the maxims which are the maxims of quality, quantity, manner, and relation. He also says that there are five types of non-observance, which are flouting a maxim, violating a maxim, infringing a

maxim, opting out of a maxim, and suspending a maxim. This theory shows me how the speaker in the jokes does the non-observance of Gricean maxims. That is why I use this theory to analyze the jokes. It really helps me to get the point that a speaker wants to say.

According to *Humor Theories and the Physiological Benefits of Laughter*, “There are three main theories that explain the functions of humor: the relief theory, which focuses on physiological release of tension, the incongruity theory which focuses on contradictions between expectations and experiences, and the superiority theory which focuses on sense of supremacy over others.” (Julia Wikins, par. 1). However, the theory that I use to analyze the humor in the jokes is the incongruity theory. Based on “*Handbook of Humor Research*”, the incongruity theory is a theory that explains how humor is produced. The diagram of the Incongruity theory explains that a joke can be funny when the reader’s prediction is different from the fact that happens in the joke and makes the readers surprised. The utterance in a joke which produces humor is called the punch line. I decide to use this theory because this is a good theory and has a good way to enable us to understand the humor in a joke. Besides, it also helps me to know which part of the speaker’s utterance produces humor.

I hope this thesis will help people to know the meaning in the utterance that the speaker in the jokes wants to imply and make the readers especially Indonesian people able to understand English jokes more easily. Moreover, I also hope it will make people more critical to understand the utterances in the jokes which produce humor.

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1.2 Statement of the Problem

I would like to discuss the following problems:

1. Which utterance in the joke fails to observe the Gricean maxim?
2. What is the type of non-observance that the speaker does?
3. How does the non-observance of Gricean maxims lead to the humor in the couple joke?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is:

1. To find out the utterance in the joke that fails to observe the Gricean maxims.
2. To find out the type of non-observance that the speaker does.
3. To find out how the non-observance of Gricean maxims can lead to the humor in the joke.

1.4 Method of Research

There are three steps that I used in writing this thesis. First I learned the Theory of the Non-Observance of Gricean maxims and the Theory of Incongruity to analyze the data. Second, I searched for the jokes on some websites in the Internet. Third, after I found the jokes that met the criteria, I read and analyzed it. Finally, I wrote the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, which is divided into five parts: Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains Theoretical Framework, which shows the theories that are used to analyze the data. Chapter Three presents the analysis of the data. The last chapter, Chapter Four, is Conclusion. At the end of the thesis, there are Bibliography and Appendix.