

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A human being is a social creature that needs interaction with one another to survive. People can interact with one another by communicating through language. Communication is important for human beings to express thoughts, opinion, and feelings.

There are two types of communication, which is verbal and nonverbal. Verbal communication happens when we have conversation with each other. According to *Your Dictionary*, verbal communication is “the use of sounds or words to express yourself and the process of sending or receiving messages with words, including writing and sign language”. (Your Dictionary, 2015)

Conversation happens every time. In conversation people have to know when they should speak formally or informally depending on the situation. Furthermore, people have to be aware of the rules of conversation so as to understand the messages in the conversation.

Conversation can lead to humour or create a funny situation when people fail to understand or interpret the messages contained in the interactions between the speaker and the hearer. “Humour” is the quality in something that makes it funny or amusing (Hornby, 2010, p. 734). The quality of humor itself is subjective. Therefore, in this thesis I would like to analyse the humour using Script Incongruity Theory by Raskin. According to Raskin’s theory, script incongruity is the change of one script to another script.

This research belongs to Pragmatics, which is one of the branches of linguistics. Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. Pragmatics leads us to know how we understand the unsaid meaning. When people say more or less about something, they produce a certain extra meaning or meaning beyond what the speaker says, which is called implicature. (Yule, 1996, p. 3)

There is the term conversational implicature in Pragmatics, in which a meaning or message is not explicitly stated in an utterance. H.P. Grice sets out his cooperative principle and describes the conversational maxims for efficient communication. Non-observance of the maxims occurs when people fail to show their true purposes of saying something because they do not directly say what they mean. (Thomas, 1995, p. 64)

Humour which contains different or ambiguous meaning makes the reader change their first perception into another perception. The theory suggests that verbal humor is best described with a text containing aspects of two opposing ‘scripts’ that are both relevant with the joke text and how the two different scripts become humorous in the reader’s mind. The two scripts are compatible when a reader reads the text as they are able to be applied in the two different scripts. (Cook, 2000, p. 75)

The theory that I use to analyze my data is the theory of Gricean maxims and the theory of Script Incongruity by Raskin. I would like to discuss the types of the Gricean maxims failed to be observed. The non-observance of the Gricean maxims does not only lead to conflict, but also humor. Humor happens when someone fails to understand or fails to interpret a speaker's message in daily conversation. Sometimes people use humor to make the unfamiliar situation comfortable and to build social community.

The topic of my thesis is *The Occurrence of Humor due to the Non Observance of Gricean Maxims in Children Jokes*. This particular topic is interesting to be analyzed because people often fail to observe Gricean maxims and the changes of perception of the two scripts in the jokes lead to humour.

Children jokes are used as the data source of my analysis. I choose the Internet websites, namely *in jokes4all.net* and *unijokes.com* because in these websites there are many good children jokes. The categories in this website are teacher, school, husband, wife, manager, police, doctor, food, animal, culture, religion, Greeks, short jokes and so on. Yet, I am going to focus on children jokes. This category of jokes is interesting to analyze because children are unique with their behavior, curiosity and they are especially funny and naughty when they try to evade from their duty.

This study will make people aware of how non-observance of the Gricean maxims can create humour in a joke. Their awareness of language will increase in identifying the language which produces humour through the role of maxims and script incongruity theory in the joke. When the readers can understand the implicature, they are expected to understand the humour.

(Words: 718)

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In this study, the problems that are going to be analyzed are:

1. Which type of the Gricean maxim is unobserved in each joke?
2. What is the implicature of the utterance?
3. How does Raskin's theory of script incongruity reveal the humour?

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

In this thesis, I am going to:

1. Find out which type of the Gricean maxim is unobserved in each joke.
2. Explain the implicature of the utterance.
3. Explain how Raskin's theory of script incongruity explains the humour.

## **1.4 Method of Research**

In writing this thesis, I took some steps to complete this thesis analysis. First, I searched for the data in the Internet. From this website, I chose the data and collected the data of children category that contain non-observance of Gricean maxims. Then I analyzed the data using both theories. Finally, I wrote the research report.

## **1.5 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is organized into four chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. After this is Chapter Two, which contains Theoretical Framework, in which I explain the theory applied to analyze the

data. Chapter Three is the analysis of the data. Chapter Four is Conclusion, which includes my comments, opinions and suggestions for further researches. The last parts are Bibliography and Appendix.

