CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In everyday life, people do not always convey what they mean by saying it directly. They can mean what they say literally butsometimes theymean much more than their words actually say.

When we hear a joke, sometimes we do not understand the joke or its meaning. The utterance of the speaker can actually be the opposite of what the speakermeans.The utterance of the speaker can also be interpreted differently by the hearer. The different interpretation and meaning can make the hearerconfused. The same thing applies tothe jokeswhich are publishedin the media such as magazine, website and newspaper. The writer writes a joke to make the reader laugh, feel entertained. As the reader, we often wonder how a joke can amuse and make us laugh.

Making a good joke is not an easy task because the writer does not simply tell a story but also tries to make the reader understand the meaning of the joke and laugh at it. The writer has to use some words or sequence of wordsthat lead the reader to get the meaning, gain the humorous effect of the story and

1

laugh at it. That is why a writer uses certain words in his or her jokes.

There are many websites on the Internet that provide jokes. One of them is http://www.sickipedia.org.Interestingly, this website also provides somethemes of jokes such as racism, politics and gender,which areunique and arenot oftenfound on other websites.The title of my thesis is *Analysis of Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims that Leads to Humour in Some Racist Jokes Taken from http://www.sickipedia.org.* I choose to analyze racistjokesbecause some stereotypes in the jokes representthe daily life of the race. Reading racist jokes is a way to gain knowledge about the race's daily life.

For the reason above, I have decided to make an analysis of some racist jokes taken froma website. I use pragmatics to analyse the jokes.According to Yule (1996), Pragmatics is a linguistic study which is "concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It has, consequently, more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning" (p.3).By using pragmatics, I hope I can know how the jokes can make the reader laugh. In addition, I also hope I can know some stereotypes of the Blackin the joke.

In this thesis, I am going to analyze the text based on Grice's non-observance of the maxims and Victor Raskin's Script Base Theory of Humour. I willanalyze the meaning of the jokes and how the jokes can make the reader laugh. I am also going to analyzethe non-observance of the maximsin each of the jokes which makes the readers laugh and feel amused.

I hope that through my pragmatic analysis, the reader will understand the meaning and the non-observance of the maximsin a joke which amusepeopleand make them laugh. Jokesare writtenfor entertaining purposes. In addition, through

2

jokes people can understand the thoughts and ideas of the writer. People usually laugh at a joke because it isfunny. However, they may only laugh at it without noticing the message or the ideas that the writer is trying tosay through his or her jokes.

After reading this analysis, the readers are expectedto consider jokesnot only as something common but also as a means to communicate and deliver ideas to the readers. The readers are expected to realize thatpeople do not always convey what they mean directly. I also hope that writers of jokes can create jokes that contain idea, background knowledge or message that can be used in their daily life and help the readers to enrich their knowledge of pragmatics as a branch of linguistics.

683 words

1.2   Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I would like to discuss the following problems:

1.   What are the types of non-observance of the maxims in the jokes?

2.   How does the non-observance of the maxims in the jokes producean implicature?

3.   How does the non observance of the maxims lead to humour?

1.3   Purpose of the Study

In this thesis I intend:

1.   to show the non-observance of the maximsin the jokes.

2.   toanalyze how the non-observance of the maxims in the jokes produce

an implicature.

3.   toanalyze how the non-observance of the maxims in the jokes lead to

humour.

1.4   Method of Research

First, I began the research by searching and selecting some jokes from the Internet. Second, I searched some e-books and books for the theory of maximand for thetheory of incongruity-resolution model. Third, Ianalyzed the jokes by using the theory of maxim and the theory of incongruity-resolution model.Lastly, I wrote my thesis.

1.5   Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into four chapters. Chapters 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. Chapter Two is Theoretical Framework, in which I present the definition and the elaboration of the theory of pragmatics and the theory of humour that I use to analyze the data. Chapter Three is the analysis of the jokes. Chapter Four, which is the last chapter of my thesis, is the conclusion of the analysis. Bibliography and Appendix are presented at the end of the thesis.

4