

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to present the result of my analysis of the role of Gricean maxims and Raskin's theory of script incongruity in family jokes in joke.siliconindia.com using the non-observance of the Gricean maxims along with Raskin's theory of Script Incongruity.

There are only two types of non-observance of the maxim out of the five types of non-observance of the Gricean maxim that can be found in the whole data. They are flouting the maxim and violating the maxim. I find that the most frequent type of non-observance of the maxim used in the whole data is flouting the maxims, which are flouting the maxim of manner, while the least is flouting the maxim of quantity and violating the maxim. The non-observance of the maxims which are not found in the data are infringing the maxim, opting out of a maxim, and suspending a maxim.

Overall, flouting the maxim of manner relies on implicature or ambiguities to ignite laughter in the humour. To be more specific, the ambiguities also rely on certain grammatical features to tickle the reader's curiosity in terms of

demonstratives, or pronouns. The unclear reference of the pronoun can easily trigger ambiguities. For example, in data 1 the use of demonstrative 'that' can refer to spray poisonous chemicals for the vegetables or kill his wife by himself. This is really effective as the basis of humour before coming out with the punch line of the joke.

The same case also applies to the pronoun 'we' in data 3, which can be understood as all the people tend to evade from her obligations. The pronoun is used to effectuate the ambiguity for the hidden meaning because even a pronoun sticks to the context. The reason why the maid uses the pronoun 'we' is because she does not want to be blamed as the one causing the phone bill to become exceptionally high.

Similarly, in data 4, the word "them" in Peter's utterance to reply to Doctor Larmer's question is a general pronoun which refers to his wife's family which has caused him to get a high blood pressure. Peter's utterance shows that his high blood pressure is not hereditary, but the doctor fails to diagnose it. Then, it turns out that Peter gives the doctor a sarcastic response because he thinks that his previous utterance is already clear. I can conclude that speech of reference and pronoun in ambiguous and long-winded or indirect utterance are very effective to ignite laughter.

The nature of a child is shown in data 5. The son's utterance flouts the maxim of manner, the son with his innocence nature, tries to give information to his father but it turns out that his utterance is still not satisfactory for his father, who wants to have clearer information. At the end of the conversation, the son

gives the information with make a long winded sentence by giving indirect answer to his father.

Hiding some information purposefully is the reason why flouting maxim of quantity is used, because it can lead to a certain interpretation. As soon as the complete information is given at the end of the joke, it creates a surprise which makes the joke funny. It happens 2 times. In data 2 and 6, the speaker seems to give out complete information, but actually there is still some hidden information.

I find some interesting cases in my analysis in which naughtiness becomes the reason why flouting the maxim of quantity and violating the maxim happen at the same time. Based on my analysis in data 2 and data 6, naughtiness which is one of a child's natures is shown through Little Johnny's utterance. In data 2, considering that Little Johnny's utterance flouts the maxim of quantity will not make the joke funny, because his utterance seems like he feels sorry for what has happened to his father. On the other hand, it can be concluded that Little Jonny's utterance violates the maxim as he has succesfully misled his mother and this makes the joke funny.

I find the difference in data 6 in which flouting the maxim of quantity together with violating the maxim makes the joke funny. Once again, the naughtiness of a child is shown through Little Johnny's witty utterance, which has violated the maxim and successfully misled his teacher that ignites humour. However, the utterance can also be considered flouting the maxim of quantity, and it still makes the joke funny because it is related to Little Johnny's intention of trying to get a symphathy from his teacher by joking around.

In my data, there are no flouting the maxim of quality and flouting the maxim of relation because the case is always related and focused on the opposite of what a person says. Based on my analysis, I find that all utterances given in every data is relevant and based on the fact although some utterances are not complete in the beginning.

The other types of non-observance of Gricean maxims, such as infringing a maxim, opting out of a maxim and suspending a maxim are rarely found in family jokes in joke.siliconindia.com. Infringing a maxim rarely occurs in family jokes as the speakers use English as their mother tongue. Likewise, in the case of opting out of a maxim, the people inside a family environment do not need to refuse cooperating when giving information to the other party in the family. Besides, opting out of a maxim is usually involved in a conversation between people from some specific professions, such as detectives, politicians, private investigators, and etc. My analysis does not include suspending a maxim because I find that those who are inside family environment not suspend anything to the other party members of the family because as they speak openly and freely to one another.

From my analysis, we can learn which part of the joke becomes funny through non-observance of the maxim and Raskin's theory of Script Incongruity to reveal the humour in the jokes. In addition, we can improve our knowledge through this study, and we know that the non-observance as well as script incongruity play a significant role in jokes.

Word count: 1,048 Words