

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

In daily life, people always communicate with one another in order to say something. One of the ways to communicate is by doing a conversation. Through conversation, people may share their ideas, opinions, or utter anything on their mind. However, in the way of communicating, sometimes it does not work perfectly.

Within people's conversation, there are some cases in which people say more or less than they actually mean; they may give an ambiguous statement; they may utter something that is totally irrelevant to the topic discussed; or they even fail to observe the maxim because of several problems. We might get many examples in daily life within a conversation between the speaker and the hearer.

When those situations occur, there is a possibility that the hearer(s) will get misunderstanding by the message sent by the speaker because the speaker's utterance is not explicit. For example, while having a long conversation, the speaker says "My husband is here to pick me up." to her friend in which she

implies that she has to go and they have to end the conversation. In this example, the hearer will have to infer what the speaker means in saying the utterance.

“Grice’s theory is designed to explain how hearers get from what is said to what is implied” (Thomas, 1995, p. 60). To avoid the hearer’s misunderstanding from the speaker’s implicature, “Grice also introduced four conversational maxims and the Cooperative Principle (CP). The four conversational maxims are used in order to make your contribution as informative as is required, do not say what you believe to be false, be relevant with the topic, and avoid ambiguity” (p. 63). However, there is a big possibility that the speakers will fail to obey the conversational maxim, either the speaker deliberately does it or not. The failure to the conversational maxim is called the non-observance of the maxim. These maxims will be discussed further in the Chapter Two in this thesis.

People’s utterances which show the non-observance of the maxims may lead to different results, such as puzzlement, annoyance, misunderstanding, or humor. In the jokes that I have got from jokes-best.com and laughfactory.com, I decided to focus on the conversation between husbands and wives because I find so many implicit statements that create misunderstanding between husbands and wives. To me, it is really interesting to be discussed and analyzed. Not all of speakers, hearers, or even the readers will realize the misunderstanding easily. Over all, humor is sometimes important in the conversation to produce the reader’s laughter.

The title of my thesis is “The Role of Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxim that Leads to Humor of Couple Jokes in Jokes-best.com and Laughfactory.com”. This topic belongs to the area of linguistics called pragmatics,

which contains an implicature in almost every conversation. Grice's Theory of Maxim and Raskin's theory of Script Incongruity are the most relevant theories to be used in my analysis. These theories are needed in order to give a clear explanation of the humor in implicit conversation. These theories are also important to reveal the humor within the joke itself and it will make people consider and believe that the joke is funny and interesting.

I chose this topic for my thesis because in daily life, people's utterances are often different from what they actually mean. They use implicit statements or implicatures and sometimes the hearer(s) is/are not aware of it. Another thing is, sometimes their utterances may create humor. Those things make me interested to analyze people's utterances, their implicature, and how the conversations create a humorous atmosphere by using two relevant theories.

I chose jokes from the Website [jokes-best.com](http://jokes-best.com) and [laughfactory.com](http://laughfactory.com) because those Websites contain so many jokes either in a long conversation or short conversation and are classified into several categories.

The analysis of non-observance of the Maxim and Script Incongruity that leads to humor in couple jokes from the Websites [jokes-best.com](http://jokes-best.com) and [laughfactory.com](http://laughfactory.com) hopefully will make people more aware that in daily life, there are so many people creating an implicature from their utterance because of several reasons. Besides, this analysis will make the readers more critical in producing and perceiving an utterance. So, it will decrease the possibility of misunderstanding in the speaker's implicature. I also hope people, including me, can be more open and familiar with many kinds of joke from around the world.

Words count: 725 words

## **Statement of the Problem**

Based on my analysis about the topic that I chose, there are several questions that I would like to answer:

1. What types of non-observance of the maxim can be found in the jokes?
2. What is the implicature?
3. How does the non-observance of the maxim together with Raskin's theory of script incongruity reveal the humor?

## **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problem above, I would like to accomplish these purposes:

1. To classify the type of the non-observance of the maxims occur in the joke.
2. To find the implicature from the utterances.
3. To reveal the humor from the non-observance of the maxim using Raskin's theory of script incongruity.

## **Method of Research**

The first step was chose the specific topic that I want to analyze and made a research in order to find out what kind of theories I have to use to support my analysis. The second step, I tried to find the relevant data from the Internet and here I used five jokes from [jokes-best.com](http://jokes-best.com) and six jokes from [laughfactory.com](http://laughfactory.com). The next step, I analyzed the jokes using H.P. Grice's theory and Raskin's Theory

of Script Incongruity based on the statement of the problem. Finally, I wrote the research report.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

The thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of the Theoretical Framework, presenting the theories used to analyze the data. Chapter Three consists of the analysis of the non-observance of the Gricean maxims in the jokes. Chapter Four consists of the conclusion and the results of the analysis. The last is Bibliography and Appendices, which are presented at the end of this thesis.

