

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People in this world do not live alone. They need and support each other in order to live. In other words, they rely on each other. They communicate with others in order to build a good relationship. Therefore, people are given the ability to talk. This ability enables them to share their opinions and thoughts. However, people sometimes tend to convey things differently from what they truly mean, “People do not always or even usually say what they mean.” (Thomas, 1995, p. 1) This can cause others to fail to understand the meaning and may result in a misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. Misunderstanding may also lead people to either conflict or humor.

In order to avoid such misunderstanding from happening, the hearer should know the implied meaning within the speaker’s words and the hearer should abide by the Cooperative Principle proposed by H.P. Grice. The Cooperative Principle teaches us to speak cooperatively with the listener by understanding the situation

of the conversation in which we are involved. In other words, the Cooperative Principle is used to describe how people should interact with one another. (Thomas, 1995, p. 62) The misunderstanding may also occur not only in people's daily conversation but also in jokes.

The primary source of data in this thesis is taken from *JokesWarehouse.com*. The jokes that are taken are categorized as family jokes. I choose these jokes from the *JokesWarehouse.com* because I find that the speaker in the joke often fails to observe the maxims in their conversation. This may happen when the speaker's utterance contains an implicature in which the reader does not understand. Thus, its results in humor.

Analyzing jokes is interesting. Reading jokes is also useful for people's life. It cannot be avoided that people certainly have experienced being stressed in their life. That is why people often search for something that can entertain them. Jokes can be the choice for people to entertain themselves.

Laughter is the common thing that happens when reading a joke. By laughing, in some way the person has entertained himself. For several people, however, they may have different opinions about how humorous the joke might be. The humorous effect resulting in a joke itself is various depending on the social context, "For the individual, instances of humor can serve a number of functions simultaneously, and these depend on social context, a single joke can have multiple and variegated effects on the jokesters, targets, and bystanders" (Chapman, 1983, p. 135).

There is a fact, as I have mentioned above, that people may have different perspectives of how humorous the joke is. By this fact, I conclude that humor is subjective. Thus, I decided to use Incongruity-Resolution theory. This theory will enable us to see objectively how humor is created in the jokes.

According to Incongruity-Resolution theory, a joke is said to be humorous if the reader finds the incongruity of the joke and resolves it by giving information about the joke. “Stated quite simply, the theory is that humor results when the perceiver meets with an incongruity (usually in a form of the punch line or a cartoon) and then is motivated to resolve the incongruity either by retrieval of the information in the joke or cartoon or from his or her own storehouse of information” (Suls, 1983, p. 42). I decided to choose this theory of humor because it is a good and appropriate theory in showing the humorous effect of a joke.

I find that it is interesting to know more about the implied meaning of the speaker’s utterance and how the implied meaning of the speaker’s can lead to humor. That is why I decided to choose the topic “*The Occurrence of Humor due to Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims in Family Jokes in JokesWarehouse.com*” The reason why I choose this topic is to help the reader to understand the implied meaning within the speaker’s utterance as well as to get the humor of the jokes.

The topic that I choose belongs to Pragmatics, one of the areas of linguistics, which is the study of speaker’s meaning. Specifically, I choose H.P. Grice’s theory of non-observance of maxim that involves four conversational maxims, which are quality, quantity, relation, and manner. I also include five types of non-observance of maxims that are introduced by H.P. Grice, namely flouting, violating, infringing,

opting out of, and suspending the maxims in analyzing my data. By using these types of maxim, the reader will be helped in understanding the speaker's intention.

The significance of my thesis is to make the reader more critical of the importance of the implied meaning that lies within the other's utterance, considering the fact that it has become very common not to convey our real intention directly which sometimes can result in humor.

(787 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are three problems that I am going to analyze:

1. Which type of non-observance of maxims is found in the utterance?
2. What is the implied meaning within the speaker's utterance?
3. How is the Incongruity-Resolution theory applied in the joke?

1.3 Purpose of the study

This study is done:

1. To show the type of non-observance of maxims that is found in the utterance.
2. To show the implied meaning within the speaker's utterance.
3. To show how the Incongruity-Resolution theory is applied in the joke.

1.4 Method of Research

First of all, I choose the topic that I am going to analyze. After that I read some jokes and choose several of them that I think are suitable to be analyzed. Then I search for some relevant references to support my analysis. Finally, I write this thesis.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of 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, which contains the theory used in analyzing the data, both the non-observance of maxims and the incongruity theory. Chapter Three contains the analysis of the jokes taken. The last is Chapter Four, the conclusion of the research. Finally, there are Bibliography and Appendix.

