

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

In our daily life, sometimes people do not say what they mean directly to the hearer because of some reasons. And sometimes for some reasons they say more or less than what they actually mean and sometimes they even say something that is totally irrelevant with the context of their conversation.

When this situation occurs, the hearer has to find the implied meaning behind the speaker's utterance. The hearer has to observe the situation and condition and after that the hearer has to realize the real message behind the utterance. If the hearer fails to understand the message behind the speaker's utterance, the hearer may misunderstand the message sent by the speaker. This situation can lead to a different situation depending on the condition the hearer is in. This may lead to conflict, misunderstanding or humor.

The title of my thesis is "*The Occurrence of Humor Due to the Non-Observance of Gricean Maxims in 2 Broke Girls Season 2.*" The reason for me to choose this topic is that it always interests me to analyze how a certain

utterance can make the situation change its direction with or without the speakers' intention to mislead, to deceive, to express annoyance or to make fun of someone. This can lead to humor, even though there are some occasions where the hearers fail to catch the humor simply because they cannot understand it.

The theories I choose to analyze my data belong to one of the branches of Linguistics called Pragmatics. Pragmatics is the study of meaning, both in use and in context. Specifically, I will use the theories of Pragmatics called the cooperative principles and the conversational maxims introduced by H.P. Grice. Grice's theories are about the implied meaning or implicature within the speaker's utterance when he/she does not observe the maxims. I think this theory is suitable to analyze the verbal humor in drama series *2 Broke Girls* Season 2.

To avoid the hearer's misunderstanding of the speaker's implicature, Grice in his theory suggests a cooperative principle in which the speaker has to "make their contribution such as is required at the stage which it occurs, by accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which [they] are engaged" (Thomas, 1995, p. 62).

Grice classifies the cooperative principle into four maxims known as Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. When the speaker does not follow one or more of the cooperative principles, their utterance will not be considered informative, truthful, relevant, and brief (Thomas, 1995, p. 63). Also, Grice understands that a speaker is not obligated to always observe a maxim. There are times when a speaker, with or without any intention, fails to observe the maxims. That is why Grice introduced five ways of failing to observe a maxim, namely flouting, violating, opting out, infringing, and suspending a maxim (Thomas,

1995, p. 64). The theory of maxims used in this thesis to analyze the utterances will be discussed further in the next chapter of this thesis.

Drama series *2 Broke Girls* is a story about Max and Caroline, two best friends and also business partners who work together with some other employees at a diner. The situation in this drama series can be found in our daily life. Also, the jokes made by the characters in this drama series are not only funny but also easy to understand. This makes this drama series entertaining and worth watching.

There are a few reasons for me to choose this drama series as my data source. The first reason is the jokes produced by the characters in this drama series may contain an implicature, as they often fail to observe maxims. The other reason is the characters's failure to observe a maxim can lead to different types of results, such as annoyance, conflict, puzzlement, and also misunderstanding that can lead to humor.

The analysis of the non-observance of the Gricean Maxims that leads to humor in drama series *2 Broke Girls* Season 2 is quite significant. This study is conducted to make the reader aware of the fact that in society people tend to unconsciously generate an implicature in their utterances which can lead to different results that can affect their daily life. Hopefully, my thesis can become a good reference for people interested in the similar topic.

**Total words: 716**

## Statement of the Problem

Based on the topic that I choose, these are the problems to analyze:

1. What types of non-observance of the Gricean maxims are found in the utterances of the characters in the drama series *2 Broke Girls*?
2. What is the implicature of each utterance?
3. How does each type of the non-observance of the maxims in the utterances lead to humor?

## Propose of the Study

In this thesis, I am going to find:

1. the types of non-observance of the Gricean maxims found in the utterances of the characters in the drama series *2 Broke Girls*.
2. the implicature of each utterance.
3. how each type of the non-observance of the maxims in the utterances leads to humor.

## Method of Research

At first, after choosing a particular topic, I studied some literature in the library and also searched for some relevant data sources for my study from the Internet. For this reason, I watched some drama series on the Internet that I thought could be used as my data sources. I found the drama series *2 Broke Girls* suitable for my thesis, therefore I started to gather the data from the dialogues in the drama series. After that I analyzed the data using the theory of the non-observance of Gricean maxims. Finally, I wrote the research report.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of 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. Chapter Two contains theoretical Framework, which presents the theories used to analyze my data. Chapter Three contains the analysis. Finally, Chapter Four contains the discussion, the results of the analysis and the conclusion. The thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendix.

