

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw some concluding points of the analysis I have done in the previous chapter, which is about ambiguity in religion jokes in building humour. The jokes that I analyze are taken from laughfactory.com and jokes4us.com. Moreover, I would like to make some personal comments and opinion regarding my analysis and give some suggestions for further researches which use a similar topic.

When I searched for religion jokes on the websites, there were only a few data that could be collected, unlike the other types of jokes such as blonde jokes or marriage jokes. This is probably because religion is such a serious and sensitive topic that not many people want to write a joke on it. Considering this, in my opinion, we have to appreciate religion joke writers because they are able to make something serious and perhaps even a taboo to be funny, despite the fact that it can make some people offended or angry because of the jokes.

According to Robert Lew, there are ten types of ambiguity. Yet, in this thesis I only find four types. The writers of the jokes use the ambiguity which can create misunderstanding and in the end the misunderstanding can produce a humorous effect to the readers. In the jokes that I have analyzed in Chapter Three, I find that the writers use an ambiguous word as the cause of misunderstanding that occurs in the jokes. It happens not only through the meaning of the word but also because the sound of the words or phrases which are uttered can have more than one interpretation.

In my findings, among the total of seven data, but in several data I have found more than one word/ phrases to be analyzed. I find 6 data for Lexical Ambiguity, 2 data for Lexicalization of a Larger Unit Ambiguity or Lexico-Syntactic, 1 data for Pragmatic Ambiguity, and 1 data for Deictic Reference Ambiguity. In the jokes containing Lexical Ambiguity that I have analyzed, I find two words which are homonyms and three words which are homophones. We can see that Lexical Ambiguity is the most dominant type of ambiguity used in the jokes. I think this happens because writing this kind of jokes is relatively simpler than writing those other types of ambiguity. In the jokes which contain Lexical Ambiguity, the writer of the joke focuses on a word which has more than one meaning or interpretation, or belongs to more than one part of speech to create more than one interpretation. That is why, to understand the jokes, we have to analyze the sentence clearly to find the possible meaning of the word. In my opinion, the jokes which contain Lexical Ambiguity are easier for the readers to understand as well.

Moreover, I find Decomposition of Idioms in two jokes which are included in Lexicalization of a Larger Unit (Lexico-Syntactic). In my opinion, this type is the most difficult to analyze because the meaning of idioms is sometimes not easy to predict. Some people usually interpret the sentence or the clause in the literal meaning only when they do not know that it is an idiom. That is why, the jokes which contain an idiom are rarely found. For example, in data 3, in order to find out the idiomatic meaning, the important point that we have to know is that we need to have sufficient background knowledge about Catholicism, Salvation Army, and Baptism. As a result, if we do not have enough information about it, we will find it difficult to identify the idiomatic meaning. This will result in the fact that we will think the sentence is not ambiguous. When this happens, the joke will not be funny.

In my analysis, I find only one data each of Deictic Reference Ambiguity and Pragmatic Ambiguity. In understanding these kinds of jokes, the awareness of several possible contexts is necessary. If the context is not correctly identified, the ambiguity will not be found or it will be misinterpreted. When this happens, we will definitely find no humour in the jokes.

After analyzing the ambiguity which occurs in the joke, I come to the conclusion that ambiguity in jokes has an important and effective role to create misunderstanding. In English, there are so many words which have more than one meaning and may belong to more than one part of speech. Besides, quite a lot of words or phrases in English have identical sounds. This fact about the richness of

English vocabulary leads to the many jokes containing ambiguity that can be found.

The other theory that I use to analyze the humour is Incongruity-Resolution theory by Suls. This theory is very useful to explain the humour in the jokes. When all the aspects pointed out in the diagram are followed, the humour can be explained well. What becomes the most important point is the rule that must be found to make everything logical. Otherwise, the humour is not resulted. I do think that this theory is very recommended to use because it is not hard to learn and it is very effective in explaining how a joke can be considered humorous.

Finally, I would like to provide some suggestions for further researchers who are also interested in taking a similar topic. I suggest that those who wish to do a similar analysis should at first have a clear understanding about the theories. Furthermore, in choosing a joke type, they should choose a type of jokes that is still rarely analyzed. Then, in analyzing the part of humour, while reading a joke, they have to be more careful to be able to identify which sentence becomes the punch line. Besides, I would also like to give a suggestion that they should find other linguistic approaches to analyze jokes because I strongly believe that there are other linguistic theories that can support the analysis of the jokes. I hope my thesis can be helpful for other researchers as a reference in developing their own theses with a the similar topic.

Word count: 1010