

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background of the Study**

Basically, everybody likes humor. Moreover, these days many people need humor in their life because of the stressful conditions that they cannot avoid in their life. According to Dr. Norman Cousins, laughter may or may not activate the endorphins or enhance respiration. Laughter is an antidote to apprehension and panic (Cousins). Laughing increases people's desire and makes them have a good mood. Bernie Siegel, M.D. in his book Love, Medicine and Miracles, says "Our state of mind has an immediate and direct effect on our state of body" (Siegel). Stress, depression and anger are the negative emotions that can influence our immunity and increase the heart problem and slow the healing of illness. On the other hand, positive emotions such as love, hope and humor are effective to keep illness away from our body. Therefore, laughing is one of the important parts of our life.

We can find a funny thing that can make us laugh in jokes. We can find jokes in movies, books, articles, the Internet sites and even in our daily interactions with other people. In creating jokes, we may use language in building the funny thing and make people laugh.

Sometimes we have a problem in understanding some jokes, especially those in foreign language, that we read and hear in many kinds of text. We do not know and do not understand which part of the jokes that can make us laugh, because sometimes in creating the funny thing, the writer adds an implicit message in the jokes. As readers, sometimes we do not catch those implicit messages that actually the writer wants to convey. As a result, we cannot understand the jokes, and of course, we do not laugh. In short, the main point of the jokes that can make people laugh cannot be understood by readers. That is the reason why I choose to analyze jokes for my thesis.

In my thesis, I would like to make readers more aware of those implicit messages in the jokes, so that readers can enjoy reading the jokes more. Actually those implicit sentences are related to one linguistic aspect, namely conversational implicature. For some people, linguistics may be unfamiliar and they may not be aware that actually linguistics is an important aspect in understanding jokes, especially when the funny thing is conveyed implicitly. Many writers tell jokes in an implicit way. That is why readers must be more aware of one particular linguistic aspect, in this case implicature, in understanding jokes.

In analyzing the jokes in my thesis, I use H. P. Grice's theory 'Conversational Implicature'. By applying that theory, I can analyze the implicit meaning of the jokes. I understand what the speakers actually intend to say and what their words mean in the jokes. In some sentences, there is something that is more than what the words mean. Or, it is also possible that the speaker meaning is completely different from what the words literally mean. This additional or different meaning is called implicature.

In linguistics, there are some factors and rules in observing those implicatures. They are called conversational maxims. These maxims are introduced by H. P. Grice. According to Grice, there are four maxims in conversation as follows:

1. Quantity: Make your contribution as informative as is required and do not make your contribution more informative than is required.
2. Quality: Do not say what you believe to be false or do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.
3. Relation: Be relevant.
4. Manner: Avoid obscurity of expression, avoid ambiguity, be brief and be orderly.

(Thomas 63-64)

Through my thesis, I hope I can help people become more aware of the importance of linguistics, so that people appreciate linguistic aspects more. More specifically, I hope readers can appreciate the joke writers' creativity more; it is not as easy as we probably think to build the funny thing through sentences, especially when they contain an implicit meaning. Through my thesis, I also hope readers will have better language competence in order to be able to observe the implicature in the jokes so that they can enjoy reading the jokes and can laugh at them more.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The problems that will be analyzed in this thesis are:

1. What utterances in the jokes flout the Gricean maxims so as to produce the humorous effect?
2. What maxims are being flouted?
3. What implicature does the utterance contain?

### **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the problems above, I would like:

1. To find out the utterances in the jokes that flout the Gricean maxims so as to produce the humorous effect.
2. To describe the maxims that are being flouted.
3. To find out the implicature the utterance contains.

### **Method of Research**

The first step is that I browse the Internet to find jokes which contain some implicit meaning that makes the jokes funny. And then, I analyze the role of conversational implicature in each joke. Finally, I write a research report.

### **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One, the Introduction, contains the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the theoretical framework used to analyze the data. Chapter Three contains the analysis of the conversational implicature in the jokes. Chapter Four contains the conclusion of the analysis, and then the thesis ends with the Bibliography.