

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions based on the discussion on the misunderstanding found in the jokes.

I am of the opinion that some jokes use misunderstanding as the element of creating funny things in jokes. Thus, joke writers deliberately use language and its elements to create misunderstanding in order to make their jokes funny and enjoyable to read. Language and the elements of language in jokes play an important role in making jokes funny.

In the jokes which I have discussed in Chapter III, I find out that the causes of the misunderstanding in the jokes can be divided into four types: the semantic misunderstanding, the syntactic misunderstanding, the phonological misunderstanding, and the pragmatic misunderstanding. In the semantic misunderstanding, there are five elements of semantics that are used to create the misunderstanding. They are homonyms, homophones, lexical ambiguity, denotative and connotative meanings, and idiomatic expressions. The syntactic

misunderstanding contains only one element and that is syntactic ambiguity. Minimal pairs is the element used in the phonological misunderstanding, and in the pragmatic misunderstanding, there are three elements of pragmatics used in creating the misunderstanding: maxims of conversation, off and on record statements, and deictic expressions.

In the semantic misunderstanding, I find five jokes use homonyms to create the misunderstanding in the jokes, three jokes use homophones, one joke uses lexical ambiguity, three jokes use idiomatic expressions, and two jokes use denotative and connotative meanings to create the misunderstanding. In the syntactic misunderstanding, there are four jokes using structural ambiguity as the cause of the misunderstanding. In the phonological misunderstanding, there are two jokes use minimal pairs as the causes of the misunderstanding. Three elements that cause the pragmatic misunderstanding are the violations of maxims of conversation, the different assumptions of the off and on record statements, and the deictic expressions. I find five jokes contain the violation of maxim of quantity, one joke contains the violations of maxims of relation and quantity, three jokes contain the violations of maxims of manner and quantity, two jokes contain the element of off and on record statements, and two jokes contain the element of deictic expressions.

In my opinion, the misunderstanding in the jokes that is triggered by the presence of homophones and minimal pairs are the most interesting thing to analyze. These kinds of jokes are rarely found. The jokes with these elements not

only make the jokes funny but they also enable the readers to figure out the funny things in the jokes they read. Besides, I think homophones, minimal pairs, and phonetic similarities are good elements in creating the funny misunderstanding in jokes.

From the jokes I have analyzed, I can see that semantics is the device that is mostly used by the writers of jokes. The element of semantics that is mostly used in the jokes is homonyms. In my opinion, the joke writers prefer using semantics, especially homonyms, to other elements of language because semantics deals with the meanings of words and homonyms are the easiest element in creating funny misunderstanding. That is why jokes with homonyms as the cause of misunderstanding are easy to find.

Despite the simplicity of collecting the data, I find some difficulties in searching and collecting the jokes needed for the discussion. I find out that there are not many jokes with misunderstanding caused by lexical ambiguity and the violation of maxim relation and quantity. Thus, I conclude that jokes using lexical ambiguity and the violation of maxim relation and quantity to trigger misunderstanding are not easy to create. However, it is essential for joke writers to be more creative in creating jokes and use more elements of language such as lexical ambiguity, minimal pairs, phonetic similarities, and the other elements so that the jokes they create will be more interesting and the readers will not feel bored in reading the jokes.

After analyzing the jokes in Chapter III I conclude that the misunderstanding used as the funny things in the jokes is almost the same as what we have in our real life. When we communicate with others, misunderstanding sometimes occurs, whether we realize it or not. Obviously, in order to maintain good communication, we cannot rely only on language because even with the existence of language – verbal and non verbal – we cannot guarantee that we can communicate well with each other without having any misunderstanding. Misunderstanding still can happen between the participants of a conversation.

From the elements of language which are used as the factors that trigger the misunderstanding in the jokes I have analyzed, I learn that to maintain good communication, the speaker and the listener must understand each other well. They must share the same understanding of words, phrases, and sentences uttered, tone of words, gesture, etc. In addition, how we interpret the meaning of an utterance we hear is not the matter of a mental image (idea) produced in our mind because a mental image seems to vary from one person to another. Furthermore, I also want to conclude that we cannot always determine the precise meaning of a word from what we hear or from the sound alone because this can cause misunderstanding. In English we know the terms like homonyms, homophones, minimal pairs, and phonetic similarities, all of which show pairs of words with similar sounds or having exactly the same sounds and pronunciation. Therefore, when we hear words or phrases, we must think whether they refer to the ideas we have in mind or to other meanings. I also see that in communicating with others,

we have to try to maintain a good conversation by speaking as clearly as possible and providing adequate, factual, accurate and relevant information with the context of the conversation we are engaged in to avoid misunderstanding in the conversation. Besides, avoiding unclear and ambiguous sentences is important so that different interpretation which can lead to misunderstanding will not occur. Above all, it is our knowledge of language that determines our ability to guess various possible meanings of the words from the context.