

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

Having analysed twenty jokes that deal with general linguistics, I come to the conclusion that finding certain jokes that can be analysed from general linguistic area on the internet is quite difficult. It is because there are so many jokes that seem fit to be analysed with the theory in general linguistics, but actually they do not belong to these areas. That is why, I have to select them carefully and classify them into the appropriate areas.

Most of the jokes that I find deal with only one branch of general linguistics, except for seven data, i.e. data 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, and 18, each of which deals with two branches of general linguistics. There are five cases dealing with phonology, two dealing with morphology, seven dealing with syntax, and sixteen dealing with semantics. Table 1 below shows in percentage the areas of general linguistics used in the data.

Area	Percentage of Data
Phonology	22.72 %
Morphology	9.09 %
Syntax	27.27 %
Semantics	77.27 %

Table 1

Data 3, data 9, data 13, data 18, and data 20 deal with phonology. However, the funny effect in each joke is not caused by the same factor. In data 9, the linguistic feature which causes misunderstanding is *homophony*. The similar sound of the two words causes different interpretations.

In data 20, the joke becomes funny because of a linguistic feature called *juncture*. The phrase a frayed knot and afraid not has a different meaning but they are pronounced similarly because of the same number of syllable and the sound. The similar pronunciation can cause a different interpretation.

In the rest of the data, i.e. data 3, data 13, and data 18, the linguistic feature which causes jokes to be funny is *minimal pair*. Those jokes become funny because there are words that are pronounced similarly.

In short, jokes which deal with phonology usually occur because of the similarity of sounds between words or phrases. It happens because of different interpretations.

There are only two data which deal with morphology. They are data 5 and data 11. The cause of misunderstanding in both data deals with a linguistic feature called *bound morpheme*. Bound morpheme, which adds meaning to the word such as in data 5, and which affects the root of the word such as in data 11, causes misunderstanding.

In short, jokes which deal with morphology are caused by the additional morpheme that is attached to a word. It may affect the meaning of the word and cause different interpretations.

There are seven data in total that deal with syntax. They are data 1, data 2, data 4, data 6, data 10, and data 22. The funny effect in those data occurs for more than one cause.

The first cause is the word that can be applied into two sentence structures. The word may cause people to have more than one interpretation since it can be applied into more than one sentence structure and causes misunderstanding. It can be found in data 1.

Another cause is an incomplete sentence that may lead to an ambiguity, such as in data 2. It is not clear to which the clause refers, so the ambiguity causes different interpretations.

The formation of a phrase may causes misunderstanding to occur. A phrase which is formed from two single words may be misunderstood when it no longer has the same meaning as its original meaning. The formation of the phrase that changes the original meaning of the words may be misleading, such case can be found in data 4.

Another cause is the combination of words in a sentence. It deals with parts of speech. A word in a sentence which can be categorised into more than one part of speech may cause more than one interpretation; moreover it may have more than one meaning. This case can be found in data 6 and data 22.

The combination of two clauses may also cause more than one interpretation. The arrangement of the two clauses may result in more than one sentence so that it is possible for people to have different interpretation. That is why there is a chance for misunderstanding. It can be seen in data 10.

In short, jokes that deal with syntax usually occur because of the arrangement of words, phrases, or clauses that is not very clear so it may suggest more than one interpretation.

Most of the jokes that I have analysed deal with semantics. There are three linguistic features that cause a different interpretation. The major cause is most likely due to a linguistic feature called *homonymy*. This case leads the hearer to have a different interpretation from the speaker. The more meanings a word has, the bigger is the chance for it to be misunderstood. It can be found in most jokes, i.e. data 1, data 3, data 4, data 5, data 6, data 7, data 8, data 11, data 12, data 14, data 15, data 16, data 17, and data 19.

In addition, *synonymy* or words that share similar meaning may also be the cause for jokes to be funny. Synonymy can be one of the factors for misunderstanding when it is used in a person's name such as in joke 13.

Another cause is due to the meaning of a phrase and words. When a phrase is translated literally, it may produce a different meaning from its idiomatic meaning. Thus, it will result jokes to be funny since there will be a different interpretation. Such jokes may be found in data 18 and data 21.

In short, jokes which deal with semantics are mostly caused by the word with more than one meaning. Thus, it is possible for different interpretations to occur.

In conclusion, the field which can be explored in analysing jokes is semantics. It is proved by the fact that more than half or fifty percent of the jokes deal with this area. It can be because many English words have more than one

meaning. Syntax is on the second place because it is still easy to play with sentence, clause, and phrase structures. As is the case of phonology, it is still quite easy to find since there are a lot of homophones and minimal pairs in English. On contrary, the field that has fewer jokes is morphology. It is proved by only few jokes deal with this area since it is not so easy to play with a word formation.

It is possible for jokes to be further analysed by simply focusing on only one area of general linguistics. Semantics and syntax are the fields in which many jokes deal with. Those areas are possible to be explored more as field for analysing jokes.