

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

Based on the theory, a conversation will run smoothly if the speaker and the hearer follow the cooperative principle. In addition, a miscommunication may happen when either the hearer or the speaker does not observe the maxims. In this chapter, I am going to conclude the findings of the analysis on the non-observance of Gricean maxims in the television series *Two and a Half Men*. If the speakers and the hearers in *Two and a Half Men* television series observe the maxims, their conversations will run smoothly. Furthermore, the hearers will be able to catch the speakers' meaning within the speakers' utterances.

However, the speakers and the hearers in this television series do not always obey the conversational rules. As a result, their conversations do not run smoothly, so the hearers may not be able to get the speakers' intended meaning from his or her utterances. From my data analysis in chapter 3, I find that the speakers and the hearers frequently fail to obey the conversational rules. Their conversations are not smooth and are likely to create misunderstanding. Interestingly, the failure to obey the conversational maxims in *Two and a Half Men* television series brings the humorous effect. The humor in this television series is called humor performance because there are some conversations

between the speakers and the hearers which finally causes the audience to laugh.

Throughout my analysis, I find nine data of flouting a maxim, which happens because the speakers fail to observe the maxims and because the speakers want to prompt the hearers to look for the meaning within the speakers' utterances. There are also two data of infringing a maxim because the speakers are drunk and become nervous.

The maxim which is most often flouted is the maxim of **relation**. I conclude that the maxim of relation plays an important role in causing the audience to laugh because the hearers' answers are irrelevant to the question. The reason why the characters give such irrelevant answers is because they want to change the topic and avoid further conversation. This is also because they do not care about one another although they live under the same roof. They have their own business and they tend to manage their own life without caring about other people's problem. That is why they are not interested in what is being talked about. They talk irrelevantly to each other and the hearers do not expect such irrelevant answers, which brings humorous effect.

The second most flouted maxim is the maxim of **quantity**. The characters flout the maxim of quantity by giving more or less information than is required. They flout this maxim because there is an implied meaning within their utterances. I think most characters in *Two and a Half Men* television series that flout this maxim give less information in their conversation. Their uncaring attitude toward each other makes them tend to provide less information than is required.

The third most flouted maxim is the maxim of **manner**. The characters flout the maxim of manner because they do not want to give a brief or direct answer to the speakers. In my opinion, the speakers do not want to give a direct answer but they generate implicature within their utterances. For example, in data

5, Alan gives a long-winded response to Isabella's question when he could simply give a direct answer to her. In this data, I notice that Alan is afraid of Isabella so he does not want to give a direct answer to her.

The maxim which is least flouted is the maxim of **quality**. This maxim occurs when a speaker says something which is untrue without any intention to deceive a hearer. A speaker only wants to prompt the hearer to look for another meaning within the speaker's utterances. For example, in data 4, Jake says something untrue to his father about his problem with a girl. As an answer, he says that he is talking with his uncle Charlie about sex. Jake wants his father to look for the meaning within his utterance, that his father should teach him about sex. I think the reason Jake flouts the maxim of quality in this conversation with his father is because he wants his father to notice that he is not a kid anymore but he is old enough to talk about sex.

In this comedy television series, **infringing a maxim** also brings humorous effects. A speaker who infringes a maxim does not have any intention to mislead or deceive the hearer. Infringing a maxim happens because the speaker is drunk, nervous or has imperfect linguistic performance. An example of this maxim is found in data 7. When there is a conversation between a person who gets drunk and a person who is not drunk. When a person cannot speak clearly in a conversation because of a reason such as drunkenness or nervousness, humor can appear.

There are some types of non-observance of the maxims that do not occur in this television series. They are **violating a maxim, opting out of a maxim, and suspending a maxim**. In my opinion, a speaker will violate a maxim with a certain purpose because he or she wants the hearer to think of something else. However, in this TV series, violating a maxim does not occur because the participants of a conversation do not care about each other's problem. I do not

find opting out of a maxim because this type usually occurs in public life, when the speaker should keep the information confidential. The speaker usually shows his or her unwillingness to cooperate with the other speakers by not giving direct answers. However, in this television series, the characters do not have any information that they should keep confidential. That is why opting out of a maxim does not occur at all. Suspending a maxim does not occur either because none of the characters talk about anything related to a culture or circumstances where information has to be suspended.

I noticed that the maxim of **Relation** brings most of the humorous effects in this television series. In my opinion, the speaker who speaks irrelevantly can make the audience laugh. I can tell that an unexpected answer often surprises the audience. This is because what the audience expects is just a general answer, but in certain parts of this television series most characters talk irrelevantly. Besides, the way the hearer replies to the speaker's question is funny. It becomes even funnier when the audience finds and understands the meaning within the speaker's utterances.

I hope this thesis will make a contribution to people who wish to analyze about the non-observance of the Gricean maxims. I would suggest that those who are interested in taking the non-observance of the Gricean maxims for their thesis should understand how to use the theory of maxims and if they are going to select the data from the comedy television series, they may be interested in including paralinguistic theory. Paralinguistic theory can be used to know the meaning deeply and to convey the emotion. It can be seen from the participant's body language, facial expression, intonation, volume, etc so that the humorous parts can be revealed deeply.

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