

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

As human beings, it is natural that people have social interactions with others. One of the ways to interact is through conversations which involve a speaker and a hearer.

When engaging in a conversation, the speaker and the hearer have to be cooperative. The speaker has to deliver what he or she wants to say explicitly so that the hearer can catch the intention of the speaker's utterance.

However, in some cases, the speaker does not say what he or she is supposed to say. They do not directly convey their intention of speaking. Consequently, this can cause misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. The effects of that occurrence may vary. One of them is humor. It is stated that "The humor sometimes occurs because of the misunderstanding that happens in the conversation between the speakers and their addresses" (Yuyun 1).

Based on Cambridge Dictionary, humor is “the ability to find things funny, the way in which people see that some things are funny or the quality of being funny” (“Humor”). Based on that definition, an utterance is not categorized as a humor if people fail to see that thing as funny. This condition, however, can occur because either the utterance itself is not funny or the target of the humor cannot figure out the funny part of it. The latter depends on the target’s perspective. It does not necessarily mean that the humor itself has a bad quality. And in fact, this happens more frequently, especially when it is related to misunderstanding in a conversation because it is not that easy to grasp the humor.

In relation to the theories used in this thesis, there is an area of linguistics that concerns the speaker’s utterance and the interpretation of the utterance. It is called pragmatics. According to George Yule, “Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by the speaker and interpreted by the listener.” (Yule 3). Therefore, pragmatics deals with implicature. If there is an implicature in the speaker’s utterance, the hearer should understand the implicature so that it will not cause any misunderstanding. To avoid potential misunderstandings, Grice, an English language philosopher, has established the Cooperative Principle which has the purpose of making the participants’ contribution in a conversation as is required and the situation needed for the interlocutor. However, this principle can only be implemented on the condition that the participants of the conversation observe the maxims, the rules of speaking, which are the maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner.

In real life, however, people often fail to observe the maxims when having conversation with others. It is termed as non-observance of the Gricean maxims.

There are various ways of non-observance of the Gricean maxims which are flouting, violating, infringing, opting out, and suspending the maxim.

In conducting my analysis, the source of the data that I choose is *Roommates* comedy TV series. This sitcom was released in 2009. Basically, it is about four young adults: two men, named Mark and James, and two women, named Hope and Katie. Hope, Katie, and James are friends and they share an apartment. Later, Mark, who is Katie's friend, moves into Katie's apartment because he falls in love with Katie and wants to be closer to her. It is normal that there are so many funny things that happen as they live together. The funny things are usually due to the conversation between the characters which does not run well so that this condition may result in humor.

I choose this source because it is a comedy in which the audience finds humor in the characters' speech. In certain scenes of *Roommates*, the condition is set by the director so that we, as the audience, will laugh because of the characters' utterances. For example, Mark and James are witty characters who like making jokes. Their conversations do not run smoothly. Most of the remarks indicate that they fail to observe the maxims when they have some other intentions behind their utterances. Therefore, I decide to write a thesis entitled *The Occurrence of Humors Due to Non-observance of the Gricean Maxims in Roommates* in order to show the funny parts in a speech event, especially to people who find it hard to understand so that they finally can be amused.

I do believe that this topic is significant for the students of the English Department of Maranatha Christian University because they will understand more deeply how to analyze humor which is caused by non-observance of the Gricean

maxims and to know what makes it funny in terms of non-observance of the Gricean maxims. It is also significant for people in general as they will understand how to grasp the humor through non-observance of the Gricean maxims.

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1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the topic, I will analyze these three problems:

1. What type of non-observance of maxims is there in each of the characters' utterances analyzed?
2. What is the implicature within each utterance?
3. How does the non-observance of the Gricean maxims lead to humor?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

By analyzing those problems in this thesis, I want to show

1. the type of non-observance occurring in each of the characters' utterances analyzed.
2. the implicature within each utterance.
3. how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims leads to humor in *Roommates* comedy TV series.

1.4. Method of Research

The method used in this thesis is divided into five steps. First, I searched for the source of the data that I am going to analyze. Second, I searched for the linguistic features that contain non-observance of the maxims in *Roommates*

comedy TV series. Third, I analyzed the type of the non-observance of the maxim and its implicature in the utterance of the characters. Fourth, I analyzed the way the non-observance of the maxims leads to humor. Finally, I wrote the research report.

1.5. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction that contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter II, Theoretical Framework, provides the linguistic theories used to discuss the non-observance of the maxims. Chapter III contains the discussion on non-observance of the maxims in *Roommates* comedy TV series. Chapter IV is the Conclusion in which I present my personal opinions and comments on the discussion. This thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix.