

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, we always interact with other people to have a social relationship and to exchange some information. The interaction can be done through communication by using language. “Language is the expression of thought, with the translations of notions into words being the *act of understanding*” (Atkinson). Basically, communication is divided into two: verbal (communication with words) and non-verbal communication (communication by gesture). In the process of a direct contact between the speaker and the hearer, the two kinds of communication usually happen at the same time.

“Effective communication will occur if the hearer understands the exact information or idea that the speaker intends to transmit” (Communication and Leadership). However, the speaker sometimes has an implied meaning within the utterance and the hearer may understand only the literal meaning of the speaker’s

utterance, which causes misinterpretation to occur. For example, it can be seen in the utterance ‘It’s hot in here’. Here, the speaker may actually not merely say the literal meaning that the weather is hot in that room. The speaker may also generate an implied meaning to suggest an order or hint to make someone open the window in order to get fresh air. Hence, there is a possibility that the hearer is not aware of the existence of the implied meaning because the hearer interprets the utterance differently.

There can be some consequences if the hearer misinterprets the implied meaning within a given utterance. If the speaker and the hearer are in a serious situation, anger or annoyance can emerge. On different occasions, humor can arise from the misinterpretation of the implied meaning or implicature.

Such misinterpretation of implicature that leads to the occurrence of humour can be analyzed by using Gricean Maxims. Gricean Maxims consist of the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner (Thomas 63).

Gricean maxims are included in the scope of Pragmatics, which is a study of speaker meaning through their utterances. According to Grice, there are four conversational maxims to be obeyed by a speaker in order to produce a brief, clear, truthful, and relevant utterance. Thus, there will be no implicature when the four conversational maxims are obeyed (63-64).

However, what possibly happens is that a speaker may fail to observe the four conversational maxims, which is caused by certain reasons. The speaker may fail to observe a maxim to generate an implicature or have intentions to mislead the hearer.

Another possible reason is the incapability of the speaker to understand the language used. It is also possible that there are certain professions which prevent them from cooperating with their conversation partner(s) or they cannot say what they want to say because of the influence of certain cultural aspects in the society or beliefs (65-77).

For my thesis, I would like to analyze the failure to observe the Gricean maxims that leads to the occurrence of humour. In analyzing the humor, I take a comedy TV series, My Boys, to be the source data in this thesis. I take My Boys TV series because I am of the opinion that movies can be more easily understood. Besides, I am more interested in something visually displayed because it is easier for me to comprehend the story. Furthermore, the clear conversation has an important role in assisting me to follow the plot of the story. I choose to analyze a comedy TV series for it is more entertaining.

There are six main characters in My Boys TV series. They are P.J. Franklin, Bobby Newman, Brendan Dorff, Kenny Morittori, Mike Callahan, and Andy Franklin. They are good friends and the stories are based on their daily routines and their relationships with their loved ones. They often fail to observe the Gricean Maxims. This leads to the funny situation in the movies. Thus, the topic of my thesis is the occurrence of humour due to the non-observance of the Gricean maxims in My Boys season 1.

The significance of my study is that by reading this analysis, the readers will be able to realize that every utterance has to be produced relevantly and informatively

to make the conversation run effectively. I also believe that by reading this analysis the readers will be able to know the steps that need to be done when they are involved in any conversation. I hope that the readers will be more careful with what they say because it may potentially creates some effects.

(735 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, there are four problems I am going to analyze:

1. Which category of non-observance of the Gricean maxims does the utterance belong to?
2. What type of Gricean maxims does the speaker fail to observe?
3. What is the implicature found in the speaker's utterance?
4. How does the non-observance of the maxims in each scene create humour?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This thesis is done to show the following points:

1. To show the category of non-observance of the Gricean maxims the utterance belongs to.
2. To show the type of Gricean maxims that the speaker fails to observe.
3. To show the implicature which is found in the speaker's utterance.
4. To analyze how the non-observance of the maxims in each scene which creates humour.

1.4 Method of Research

The first step in doing this research is searching for the situational comedy in the internet and watching My Boys TV series. The second step is collecting all the comical dialogues in which the four conversational maxims are not well observed. The third step is classifying each data into the types of non-observance and conversational maxims. The last step is analyzing how the utterances lead to humour and writing it in the research report.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is presented in four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the Theoretical Framework, in which all the theories used in analyzing the data are provided. Chapter Three is the analysis of the data. Chapter Four contains the conclusion of the analysis. At the last part of this thesis, I put the Bibliography, which contains all the references used, and the Appendix, in which I put the data used.