CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Language is the object of linguistics. As seen from its function, language is important for people, because language helps people to communicate with each other and helps them to express what they want, their feelings, and also to express their ideas in the society. Every country has their own first language for people to communicate with each other in their country.

Language plays an important role in human and country relationship. As time goes by many people try to learn other languages besides their mother tongue because of the necessity to communicate with people outside their country, to understand other countries and their people, and to learn culture.

Furthermore, language supports conversations to happen. According to *The Free Dictionary*, conversation is "the spoken exchange of thoughts, opinions, and feelings; talk" ("Conversation"). Yet, in the process of communication, people

often fail to understand what other people mean when they talk to each other. When this happens in a conversation, humour sometimes occurs.

"Humour is the quality in something that makes it funny or amusing" ("Humour"). Some humours happen because the speaker does it on purpose when the speaker wants to liven the atmosphere up between the speaker and the people around them. And some others happen because they fail to understand what other people mean.

There is the significance of this topic, which is explaining how a linguistic feature in a word or a sentence can create the humour in a joke. It is hoped that the result of this study will help the reader to understand how a word can create the joke and how a linguistic feature can help reader to be able to understand.

The topic of this thesis is Analysis on Jokes in *Reader's Digest* using Syntax and Semantics. This topic is chosen because it helps me to be more aware of how linguistics is used in everyday's life conversation especially in jokes. Analyzing jokes with linguistics also helps me to understand what a joke means and why a word can make the whole conversation humourous. I take interest in analyzing school and campus jokes categories because I am still a college student so I think I can understand the jokes related to school and campus better than the other jokes categories.

Most people in this world love jokes or even love making jokes. Jokes are needed in our daily life because it is impossible to build a relationship with someone who never makes you laugh or who never laughs at the jokes you tell.

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Not only are there individual differences in how humor is appreciated but there are also differences between men and women, between people with different educational background, between social classes, between old and young people, and of course differences between people from different cultures, languages and countries. What people think is funny – or not funny – is strongly determined by how they were brought up and the company they keep.

Jokes can be interpreted in many ways like for insulting people, for making fun of people or cheering people. That is why this topic is interesting because by analyzing it, the meaning of the jokes can be known and it makes the jokes easier to be interpreted. These jokes can be analyzed using some branches of Linguistics. In this thesis the type of jokes that will be analyzed is in the form of a conversation.

In this thesis I will analyze the jokes using pure linguistics like Phonology, Semantics, Syntax and Morphology and the importance of the linguistic features in creating the joke itself. I also use Raskin's theory of script incongruity to analyze these jokes as it is the most suitable theory for me to use in this thesis.

I chose to analyze jokes by using pure linguistics because for me this is the most suitable area to be used. Analyzing jokes by using Phonology usually deals with the sound, about what the speaker says and what the hearer hears. Semantics usually deals with many things, for example homograph, homonym and homophone. In Syntax, we deal with how words are arranged to form a sentence.

And in Morphology, for example, the jokes deal with suffixes in a word eventhough not all jokes deal with it.

The source of the data which will be analyzed in this thesis is jokes taken from *Reader's Digest* website. I choose fun jokes then as for the jokes categories, I chose *Tales Out of School* and *Campus Comedy* because this source has many data that are suitable for my thesis.

(753 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this study the problem that will be analyzed are:

1. What linguistic feature can be found in the joke?
2. How does Raskin's theory of script incongruity help explain the occurence of humour in the joke?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, I want to:

1. Specify the linguistic feature that is found in the joke.
2. Explain how Raskin's theory of script incongruity helps reveal the occurence of humour in the joke.

1.4   **Method of Research**

In the process of completing this thesis, I gathered the data from the *Reader's Digest* website as it has the things that I want to analyze for my thesis. The second step after I found data is sorting out which linguistic theories that is in the jokes. Then I tried to find out the relation between the joke and Raskin's theory of script incongruity. After both the data and the theories have been gathered, the third step was started to analyze the data according to the statement of the problem. Once the data were analyzed, the last step was writing the paper and finishing thesis.

1.5   **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of four chapters: Introduction, Theoretical Framework, data analysis and Conclusion. Chapter One consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of theories about Pure Linguistics which are Phonology, Morphology, Semantics and Syntax and Raskin's theory of script incongruity which are used to analyze the jokes. Chapter Three contains the analysis of the jokes that is important in this thesis. Chapter Four, which is Conclusion, consists of my comments, opinions and suggestion for further research. And last is Bibliography that is presented at the end of this thesis.