

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to state some concluding remarks based on the analysis of jokes from *Reader's Digest's Funny Jokes* that I have found in the Internet.

Generally speaking, jokes are made to entertain people but then some jokes use linguistic features that can be analysed. I conclude that humours are not only made to entertain the readers but humours can be analysed by using some linguistics features. Sometimes humour happens when people want to liven up the atmosphere around them but sometimes it happens because they fail to understand what other people mean. This point can be proven by seeing Chapter III.

There are eight jokes that are analysed by using some linguistics features and a theory from Raskin. From the eight jokes that I have found in the Internet and analysed, the linguistic features that are used are homonyms, ambiguity and homophones. There are five homonyms, three ambiguities and one homophone.

The most common linguistic feature that is used in the jokes is homonyms. As we know, there are many English words that have more than one meaning. That is why sometimes when someone utters an English word, the hearer may respond with an irrelevant answer. This happens because the hearer thinks of the other definitions of that word. Using a homonym in a joke is effective because the different understanding of some words can bring laughter to the readers of the joke. The narrator usually uses a word with multiple meanings and stirs the hearer to one meaning of the word. Sometimes the readers even forget that a word can have so many meanings. When this happens and they realise it, laughter happens. That is why using homonym is effective. The use of a homonym in a joke reminds people that a word may have more than one meaning. For example, the word *can*. *Can* means “be able” (“can,” entry 1) and *can* means “a metal container in which food and drink is sold” (“can,” entry 2).

The second linguistic feature that is used in the jokes is ambiguity. The type of ambiguity can be either syntactic, lexical or semantical ambiguity. It is pretty effective to use ambiguity in a joke because sometimes people misunderstand what a person says because they use the form that has potential to create more than one meaning. It is either because of the words or because of the sentence formation that makes their sentence can be interpreted two ways. Ambiguity in a joke can bring laughter to the reader because of the different interpretations of a sentence or question.

The last linguistic feature that is found in the joke is homophone. English has so many words that sound exactly the same with the other words despite their different spellings and meanings. Sadly, it is the rare one to be found in the jokes.

As seen in Chapter III, none of the jokes use Phonology nor Morphology. The jokes with Phonology are rarely found maybe because it is more effective to be said than to be written as people will understand more about the Phonological jokes that are said.

In this thesis, I found Raskin's theory of script incongruity the most suitable for me to use because Raskin's theory of script incongruity helps me to explain what makes the joke funny. The theory shows that how can a different context in a conversation can make the conversation become humorous. It also makes the reader aware of how some words can be more important than the other words in a conversation and how different words can trigger different scripts.

If someone tells a joke which uses ambiguity, usually just few people understand it. This happens because the words or expression in the sentence can be interpreted in two or more possible ways, and not many people are aware of the possibilities. People need to think harder to get what the sentence means, why it is funny and what the other meaning of that sentence is.

Here I can conclude that many jokes are made using linguistic features. The linguistic features that are found in a joke are the ones that make the joke humorous. Without using linguistic features, the joke might be too plain and may not even be funny at all. That is why I believe using linguistic features in a joke is effective.

I think the jokes that are easy to understand are jokes with homonyms. This is so because in this kind of jokes, the words that are used are words that are often used in our daily life. Therefore, people will not need to consult the dictionary to look up what that word means.

A joke with ambiguity is sometimes easy to understand but it is sometimes quite hard to understand too. People need to think extra and sometimes need other people to explain to them why the sentence is ambiguous. The hardest ones to understand are the jokes with homophones because people need to think hard to understand what the speaker means by that particular word.

For other students of the linguistic specialisation be critical while reading something that is related with language. Do not read something like jokes for entertainment only. Be smart to understand what the context of the joke is, because if you do not understand the context of the joke, you will not understand the joke and will not find it funny. You can also widen your knowledge by reading those jokes because many jokes have deeper meaning than what it is seen if they are analysed like what I have done in this thesis. The words that are used in the jokes can also be the ones which make the joke funny. I do hope that the next researcher will find other linguistic features that are used in jokes, like Phonology and Morphology that I did not find in this research, because I am sure that joke will be more various as time goes by.

Making a joke is not easy as the maker should make it easy enough for people to understand. Sometimes, however, we have to be critical to understand what the maker of the jokes wants people to understand. That is why by

understanding some linguistic features, we could understand the joke easier as we can understand what the joke maker wants us to get from the joke.

(1,060 words)