CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter I will present my personal opinion and comments based on my findings I have written in Chapter Three. All the data that I have chosen are taken from an online website JokesWareHouse.com. Based on my findings, from seven family jokes, there are thirteen utterances which do not observe Gricean maxim. All those thirteen utterances flout the maxims. In addition, I also find that there is one utterance that flouts more than one maxim. Thus, there are 14 maxims that have been flouted. They are flouting the maxim of manner (6 data), flouting the maxim of relation (6 data), flouting the maxim of quality (1 data), and flouting the maxim of quantity (1 data).

The fact that all the data flout a maxim shows that flouting a maxim is the most prominent type that is able to show the humor of a joke. This also means that the readers themselves should at least have a sufficient amount of knowledge so as to make them more aware in order to get the implied meaning and at the same time understand the punch line of the joke too.
Based on my findings, I find that type of maxims that is mostly flouted is flouting the maxim of manner. There are six out of thirteen utterances or about 50 percents of my findings that break this type of maxims. This shows that flouting the maxim of manner is the most common type of maxim that can be easily found within family conversation. Yet, as the speakers convey their utterances which are not in straight-forward manner, there is a possibility that the readers find it is difficult to understand the implicature. Thus, it is notable that the context of the conversation has become the key for the readers in order to understand the implicature.

The next type of maxims that is mostly flouted is flouting the maxim of relation with the total number of six data as well. As I observe in my data, the speakers flout maxim of relation when they ignore others’ goal in conveying their utterances because the speakers insistently want to keep what they want. In my opinion, their insistence itself makes the jokes funny despite the fact that they are being irrelevant toward others.

The third type of maxims that I find is flouting the maxim of quality, which only has one occurrence. I find that the reason the speaker says his utterance which is not based on the truth is because he wants to express his disappointment to somebody. Even though it is untruthful, in my opinion it is amusing because what he says in his utterance is ridiculous. However, with only one occurrence in my data, I conclude that it may be hard to create funny utterances by conveying something untruthful especially in a joke.
The last type of maxim is flouting the maxim of quantity which also only has one occurrence. I find in my analysis that the reason for the speaker to give more information is because he wants to assure the person he is talking to so as to prevent something he does not like from happening. Once again, however, in my findings only one data that flout maxim of quantity, thus I observe that giving too much information in their utterance has less impact on the readers because it might be possible that the readers sometimes cannot get the bottom line of the speakers’ utterance.

As I have mentioned before that all my findings are flouting the maxims, this means that I also find the implicatures as well as a result, the implicatures can lead to humor in the jokes. However, implicature is not an easy thing to be understood. Once again, the readers should at least have a proper knowledge in order to perceive the implicature. Thus, I can say that implicature is an aspect for the reader to find whether a joke is funny or not.

There is an obvious fact that the readers must have their own prediction about the outcome of a joke. Therefore, I choose Incongruity-Resolution theory to help me to reveal the humorous effect in my data. This theory shows that punch line also has great importance in building the humor. The speaker often says something beyond the readers’ thought yet in my opinion it is the point where the readers find the joke amusing. In other words, humor arise due to the unpredictable utterance or the punch line within the jokes.

Based on the analysis I have written in Chapter Three, in which I manage to find all types of flouting a maxim, in my opinion there are two important
aspects that the readers should consider in order to understand as well as get the humor of a joke. First and the most obvious one, the readers should at least have adequate awareness and understanding of the context so as to manage to get the implicature of an utterance, in this case an utterance which flouts a maxim. I observe that if the readers manage to get any possible implicature within an utterance, it means they are able to comprehend the joke well. Second, in relation to the unpredictable ending I find in all my findings, thus it shows that punch line also has important role in building the humorous effect of a joke.

At last, I would like to provide some suggestions especially for researchers who are also interested in taking a similar topic. First, in analyzing Gricean maxims, the primary source can be anything. It can be in the forms of films, comics, soap operas, jokes in magazines and many more. Second, in analyzing the humor I recommend the reasearchers use Incongruity-Resolution theory. In my perception, this theory is not hard to be learned and foremost it is an appropriate theory in revealing the humor of the data that I use. I hope my thesis can be helpful for those reasearchers as a reference in developing their own thesis with the same topic.

(1003 words)