CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions based on the analysis that I have carried out in the previous chapter. After doing the analysis of ‘Tintin’ and ‘Asterix’ comic series, I find out that there are some events of misunderstanding which are based on the Taxonomy types involved. In this case, a speech act label of one utterance which is conveyed by a speaker is differently interpreted by a hearer.

From the 32 data that have been analyzed, I find that most of the data show that the misunderstandings happen because the speaker and the hearer have different interpretations concerning the taxonomy classification. There are 13 data showing the misunderstandings from Directive to Expressive types. In addition, there are also 11 data which show the misunderstandings from Representative to Expressive types. There are 3 data showing the misunderstanding from Expressive to Directive types, and 1 data from Directive to Representative types.

In the findings above, it is clear that most of the misunderstandings happen because the speaker’s utterances are misinterpreted as the Expressive type. In my opinion, this happens due to the fact that the hearers in the conversations involve
their feelings in interpreting the speaker’s utterances so that they have various emotional responses such as feeling angry, accused, offended, humiliated, insulted or even happy for what the speakers have said.

Besides, I would also like to point out that there are some data showing misunderstandings although they are still in the same Taxonomy classification. In this case, the misunderstandings happen because both of the speaker and hearer have different interpretations of speech act labels. There are 2 data showing misunderstandings of this kind in the Directive type. As mentioned in the analysis, the speaker’s order is interpreted as a question by the hearer, and a question is interpreted as an order. There are also 2 data showing this kind of misunderstanding in the Expressive type. They are the speaker’s praise which is interpreted as a mockery by the hearer, and the speaker’s awed expression which is interpreted as an insult.

Those misunderstandings happen because, although the Taxonomy classification is the same, each dialogue consists of different speech act labels which reveal different messages and responses. In this case, I would like to give an example taken from data number 7 when Lady Castafiore considers Irma’s question an order. It can be clearly seen that Lady Castafiore as the hearer feels offended because Irma, the assistant, asks about her lost scissors. Castafiore feels that by Irma’s uttering such a question (Directive), she implies an order (Directive) to Castafiore to find the scissors. In this event, Castafiore gets the negative impression from Irma’s utterance so that she responds negatively.

It is common that in our daily conversation the speaker and hearer often misunderstand each other through the positive or negative impression and
meaning of an utterance. Sometimes, the positive impression intended by the speaker is interpreted wrongly by the hearer. It depends on how the speaker conveys the utterance and whether the language is used in the appropriate context or not.

From the misunderstandings that have been discussed, there must be some effects on the participants in the conversations. This is illustrated as the ‘notion of face’. In the 29 data of misunderstandings, the effects show that the hearers interpret the speakers’ face saving act as face threatening act. Meanwhile, only in the 3 data do the effects imply that the hearers interpret the speakers’ face threatening act as face saving act.

In my opinion, the misunderstandings in ‘Tintin’ and ‘Asterix’ comic series tend to perform a face threatening act because most of the hearers in the conversations feel embarrassed and threatened by the speakers’ utterances. Most of them interpret the speaker’s utterances negatively.

In these comic series, we often find the funny scenes caused by some factors. In this case, ‘misunderstanding’ becomes one of the influencing factors because the reader will be amusingly entertained by noticing that there is something wrong yet funny in the conversations. Those conversations usually will lead the readers to a different perception of what has been said by the speaker and what has been understood by the hearer. As mentioned in data number 24, the funny scene appears when a little boy, Huevos Y bacon, as the speaker, innocently expresses his shock about Vitalstatistix’s big nose through his statement. Meanwhile, Vitalstatistix is angry and feeling insulted. This example is considered funny because there is an unexpected event when a little boy like
Huevos will honestly express his shock to the chief of Gaullish Village and this makes Vitalstatistix angry.

Besides, I can say that there are also other elements causing the funny scenes which support the misunderstanding events both in ‘Tintin’ and ‘Asterix’ comic series. In 'Tintin’ comic series, the misunderstanding is strongly supported by the stereotypical characters appearing in the story. For example, the misunderstandings often happen through the characterization of Captain Haddock, who is almost always bad-tempered and stubborn, and the twin detectives Thomson and Thompson, who are always clumsy and careless. The characterization of Professor Calculus and Lady Castafiore also plays an important role in creating the funny scenes in the comic series.

In ‘Asterix’ comic series, the funny scenes are not only supported by the events of misunderstanding, but they are also supported by the unique characterization of every character. In this case, the character of Obelix is described as a rather stupid, sensitive and clumsy person, Asterix, is described as a smart and serious character. Usually, the misunderstandings happen between the opposing characters. Every character in these comic series has his or her own specialty which is very dominant so he or she is often involved in the events of misunderstanding.

As a closing remark, I would like to say that some comic series, especially ‘Tintin’ and ‘Asterix’ are not only entertaining us through their comedy situation, but they also have many elements which are worth being analyzed through linguistic area.