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 misinterpretation of illocutions in Friends movie series, I find out that there are some misunderstandings resulted from the indirect speech act. In this case, an illocutionary act of utterance which is conveyed by a speaker can be differently interpreted by a hearer.

It is common that in our daily conversation, misunderstanding often occurs between a speaker and a hearer. It happens through a direct or an indirect speech act, and the meaning of the utterance. Sometimes, the direct speech act which is intended by the speaker is wrongly interpreted by the hearer. It depends on how the speaker conveys the utterance and whether the words are used in the appropriate context or not.

From the 13 data, I find that most of the data show that misunderstandings happen because the speaker and the hearer have
different interpretations of illocutionary acts. There are 8 data which shows the misunderstanding from requesting directly to informing declaratively. In addition, there are 2 data which show the misunderstanding from requesting directly to accepting expressively and 3 data which show the misunderstanding from request directly to asking declaratively.

It is clear that most of the misunderstandings happen because the hearer has misinterpreted the meaning of the speaker’s utterance. For example, when the speaker wants to request something but the utterance is not directly said, the speaker conveys the utterance in the form of information or accepting. For that reason, what the hearer gets from the speaker’s utterance is either information or accepting, not a request which is expected by the speaker. There are some factors which may cause misunderstanding, such as the hearer does not concentrate, the hearer has a slow thinking, and condition of a person does not support the hearer to catch the speaker’s meaning.

These above factors are proven in data 2. In this data, Phoebe, who is very slow in thinking, has misinterpreted Rachel’s utterance. As a result, Phoebe replies Rachel’s utterance that she has helped Rachel by singing a song. In data 7, Phoebe thinks that Chandler does not want to give her any deposit for the wedding. In data 3, 5, 6, and 11 people’s condition makes the illocutionary act is misinterpreted by the hearer. In this situation, Janice as the hearer misinterprets Monica’s utterance because it is supported by Janice’s characteristic which is very enthusiastic. Data 6 shows that Chandler misinterprets Joey’s utterance because Chandler feels happy when he gets closed with Janice. In data 11, Monica, who
misinterprets Rachel’s utterance, keeps smiling because she feels very happy at that time.

Data 12 and 13 show that the surrounding situation can make the hearer misinterpret the speaker’s utterance. In data 12, Ross, as the hearer, misinterprets Rachel’s utterance considering that the surrounding situation does not support Ross to catch Rachel’s utterance. Similar with data 13, Phoebe misinterprets Rachel’s utterance because at that time the situation does not support Phoebe to catch the meaning of Rachel’s utterance. Phoebe just wants Rachel to choose the guy that she takes so as to make her look great in front of Rachel.

Data 8 and data 10 show misinterpretation of illocutions from requesting directly to accepting expresively. It happens on account of the people’s condition. In data 8, the waiter misinterprets Joey’s utterance which asks the waiter to leave the table. On the other hand, the waiter does not leave. He stays for a second as he follows Joey’s utterance that he must leave the table only for a second. This misinterpretation happens for the simple reason that the waiter’s condition is very glad to serve Joey and Rachel. Similar to data 8, data 10 shows that people’s condition can make the hearer misinterpret the speaker’s utterance. In this case, Ross who misinterprets Rachel’s utterance, who is jealous to Ross. Rachel wants Ross to explain about his relationship with Julie. The misinterpretation appears considering that Ross is confused to explain his situation and then he misinterprets Rachel’s utterance.

In addition, in data 1, data 4, and data 9, misinterpretation happens because the requesting directly is interpreted as asking declaratively. The meaning changes for the simple reason that the hearer has to focus on another
subject. For example, in data 1, Monica misinterprets Rachel’s utterance because she focuses on another subject. The subject is Rachel’s untidiness. Therefore, if Monica comes to Rachel’s apartment, she wants to look a little bit untidy owing to the fact that her behaviour is very neat. In data 4, Gary misinterprets Monica’s utterance because he is focused on the candy. He forgets that at four a.m. people are still sleeping. As a result, Gary does not get the meaning of Monica’s utterance. Data 9 shows another misinterpretation. It happens because the hearer focuses on another subject. In this situation, Phoebe misinterprets Rachel’s utterance which asks for help to find her engagement ring. Phoebe only focuses on Rachel’s ring because it is beautiful. She does not focus on what Rachel means by her utterance.

The data that I have analyzed contain funny situation. The funny situation appears when the characters misinterpret the utterances. It becomes funny to the audience because they do not expect that the characters will misinterpret the utterance conveyed by the speaker.

I conclude that what the speaker means can give different interpretation to the hearer. People’s characteristic can be a factor to cause misinterpretation, such as emotion, slow-thinking, or someone has to focus on another subject, surrounding situation or condition of a person. Sometimes the misinterpretation itself becomes a funny situation, especially in the movie. The funny elements in these movie series can also be built because of the characters’ misinterpretation. The funny situation appears because there is misunderstanding or misinterpretation happened between the hearer and the speaker. I hope after
completing this thesis, I will be more aware of someone’s intention, which is not revealed directly within his or her utterance.

As a closing remark, I would like to say that Friends movie series, is not only entertaining us through their comedy situation, but they also have many elements which are worth being analyzed through linguistic area.

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