CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter I will draw a conclusion based on my findings. Basically, Grice states that applying the conversational maxims would make people’s conversation run well. Actually, the conversation will still run well even if the speaker and the addressee do not obey the conversational rules. Yet, they have to catch the real intention and the sense of the conversation. It shows that a speaker and an addressee do not always have to follow the rules in conversations. If the addressee catches the speaker’s intention, there will be no problem. Nevertheless, in my thesis the speakers and the addressees fail to follow the conversational maxim rules. As a result, implicature appears from failing to observe the Gricean conversational maxims.

I have obtained some findings after analyzing the occurrence of humor due to the failure to observe the Gricean maxims in Joey. The findings include the type of non-observance of a maxim which the speakers often fail to observe, the type of conversational maxim which the speakers often do, the reasons why the speakers fail to observe a maxim and how the failure of observing a maxim in Joey television series can create humor.
First, I found that flouting the maxim is the type of non-observance which the speakers do the most in Joey television series. There are only two types of non-observance I found in the film. They are flouting a maxim (7 data), and infringing a maxim (2 data). By this number, I conclude that as humor appears without any intention to create laughter, it fits to the theory of flouting a maxim which the speaker has no intention to mislead the addressee. And flouting a maxim makes nonsense because no matter what the utterance is it does not fulfill the speaker’s questions in some way. Hence, flouting a maxim works well in causing laughter to audience. Besides, infringing a maxim also creates humor. It is because infringing a maxim in an utterance has no intention either to deceive or does it contain an implicature. In my opinion, when an ordinary person infringes a maxim, it makes the audience laugh as it happens to people who are nervous, drunk or has an imperfect language skill, for example a language learner who has a limited language skill. Because as physically normal person can speak clearly but because of some reasons like nervousness or drunkenness not uttering clearly looks funny. Yet, it will not cause humor if it happens to disabled speak because it is not something that we can laugh at.

Second, I found that the maxim of relation is the type of conversational maxim which the speakers do mostly. The numbers of the maxims that the speakers fail to observe are: maxim of relation (8 data), maxim of quantity (3 data), maxim of quality (2 data), and maxim of manner (1 data). Based on this number, I conclude that the maxim of relation plays an important role in causing laughter to the audience because the addressee’s answer is out of the topic which the audience thinks at the first time. In terms of the maxim of relation, an
addressee gives an answer which is irrelevant and unclear answer to what the speaker needs. In other words, the audience does not expect the response of the addressee. As a result, surprise appears and leads to a laughter.

Third, I analyzed some reasons that make the speakers fail to observe a conversational maxim. And here is the number: the speaker wants to talk about another thing (3 data), the speaker feels nervous (1 data), the speaker has an imperfect language skill (1 data), the speakers feel uncomfortable to answer the questions (1 data), the speaker just responds to an implicature (1 data), the speaker wants to have a brief conversation (2 data), the speaker wants to use an implicature in the answer (1 data).

I noticed that the reasons that build humor in the conversation are connected with the second finding of my research which is maxim of relation. It is because the speakers and the addresses have different ideas while having the same conversation. It shows that having different ideas in a conversation is the main reason why the addressee fail to observe a maxim.

The last finding of my thesis is the humor that is raised from failing to observe the conversational maxim. Here are the causes why the humor appears: a speaker’s answer to a question is not what the audience expects (5 data), a speaker answers a question by repeating the question (1 data), talking about another things which is irrelevant (1 data), being nervous or not speaking well (1 data), having an imperfect language skill (1 data), not being straight to the point (1 data).

Once again, it is found that giving an unexpected answer is related to the second and third findings. I can tell that giving an unexpected answer which often appears really makes this television series funny. An unexpected answer makes
the audience surprised because what the audience expects is just a general answer. Besides, the way how the addressee replies to the speaker’s question is also funny. It becomes ever funnier when the audience finds and understands the implied meaning in the answer.

Finally, in my thesis I found a strong point that flouting a maxim of relation really makes Joey television series become a successful comedy television series. The script writers, Marta Kauffman and David Crane, deserve credit for the success of Joey television series because these two writers have written a great script. They have created humor by using linguistics. In my opinion, a comedy television series can be successful due to the support of funny gestures or stupid actions. Yet, as far as this television series is concerned, it uses linguistics as their main focus of how they build a humor through conversation. Thus, I conclude that by being aware of linguistic fields, people can understand and enjoy this television series more.

I believe my analysis can be improved more by discussing it in another way. In my thesis I have used the Gricean theory which only focuses on the verbal utterances. On the other hand, it is shown that humor can arise from funny gestures or stupid actions which and are non-verbal aspects.