

**THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES IN JOKES AS FOUND IN
“BEST JOKES”**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini merupakan kajian tentang pelanggaran prinsip kerja sama yang ada dalam humor (jokes) bahasa Inggris. Adapun tujuan penelitian ini adalah mendeskripsikan tentang bagaimanakah pelanggaran prinsip-prinsip kerjasama dalam percakapan antara partisipan di dalam humor, dan melihat maksim yang paling dominan dilanggar humor untuk menimbulkan efek kelucuan.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Data penelitian ini berupa humor verbal bahasa Inggris dalam bentuk percakapan yang diambil dari sebuah buku elektronik yang berjudul "Best Jokes". Data yang dikumpulkan sebanyak 22 buah yang terdiri dari pelanggaran prinsip-prinsip kerja sama. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan teknik simak bebas libat cakap dan teknik catat. Setelah itu data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode padan pragmatik. Teori yang menjadi landasan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Prinsip Kerjasama (*Cooperative Principle*) yang diajukan oleh Grice (1975).

Dari hasil analisa 22 data diperoleh temuan bahwa partisipan melanggar prinsip kerjasama dalam beberapa cara diantaranya: (a) memberikan kontribusi yang berlebihan, (b) memberikan informasi yang tidak lengkap, (c) menyangkal kebenaran, (d) berbohong dan mengekspresikan pernyataan ironi, (e) memberikan jawaban yang tidak relevan, (f) memberikan informasi yang tidak jelas, samar-samar, dan ambigu. Dari keempat maksim yang digunakan *maksim cara* merupakan maksim yang paling sering dilanggar yaitu sebanyak 9 kali (40,91 %), dan yang kedua adalah *maksim hubungan* sebanyak 7 kali (31,82 %), disusul oleh *maksim kualitas* sebanyak 5 kali (22,73 %). Maksim yang paling sedikit dilanggar adalah *maksim kuantitas*, sebanyak 3 kali (13,64 %). Dari hasil penelitian tersebut dapat disimpulkan bahwa pelanggaran prinsip kerjasama dalam humor sebagian besar bertujuan untuk menimbulkan efek kelucuan dan menghibur.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Humor is something common that occurs in our daily life. In broad sense, in the course of human communication, humor is just what can make people laugh or enable people to feel interesting, for instance, some words, movements, facial expressions, etc. According to the dictionary of Webster (1990) humor is a comic quality causing amusement, or comical writing or talk in general. People's communication activity mainly relies on the speech, consequently the humor is produced from the words mostly. People use humor in communication as entertainment and even criticism. Humor used as an entertainment with the aim to relieve tension, to give pleasure and to bring freedom which stimulates people to laugh and smile. In addition, humor also tries to convey criticism indirectly without causing a serious confrontation between participants.

According to Morris (1975) humor is something designed to induce laughter or amusement; while joke is an amusing story, especially one with punch-line, the line with the last few words of a story which make it funny. In this case the writer would like to clarify that joke and humor are treated synonymously and employed interchangeably (Wilson, 1972:2).

Raskin (1985) defines humor as a non-bona-fide (NBF) mode of communication, which does not tolerate the cooperative principle (CP). Non-bona-fide is opposed to bona-fide communication in which participant obeys or

tolerates the cooperative principle. The cooperative principle is a theory proposed by Grice (1975), he assumes that in order to have a successful conversation, we have to give proper contribution, at the stage at which it occurs and by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk in which we are engaged. In this theory, Grice states four conversational maxims as an instruction for the speaker and the hearer to complete cooperative principle, which consists of maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner.

Many studies have been done to search for relation of humor and cooperative principle. For instance, jokes, as the integrated part of humor are considered to be included the non-bona-fide (NBF) mode of communication, that is, a kind of communication, which breaks the cooperative principle. This indicates that the communication in jokes may deal with the violating or flouting maxims by being uninformative or too informative (Maxim of Quantity), or lying or being ironical (Maxim of Quality), being irrelevant (Maxim of Relevance), or being ambiguous (Maxim of Manner). Another indirect remark of the breaking of Cooperative Principle shows that the ambiguity or vagueness in certain words or phrase is often used as one of the strategies in jokes (Norrick, 1994:412). This means the violation or flouting of the maxims in jokes does not occur unconsciously, but it can be created in order to cause funniness.

Some other linguists, especially to the paradox raised by those theories, however, oppose the theories above. They claimed that the Cooperative Principle is the way how people convey information if jokes violate the principle, how it convey information, in this case, the answer is given back to the function of jokes,

that is, to cause laughter. Thus, the breaking of the CP in Jokes or in humor does not mean that it cannot convey information, but more or less it is meant to cause the audience laugh or to create humor. It is seen as the "perlocutionary goal" of joke (Raskin:1985). In other ways, the hearer or the audience can assume that joke communicates or conveys information based on three things. First, they can rely on their own belief that the text is proposing to have a humorous nature, the second is the underlying message of the text is funny or relating humor and the third is their ignorance of the violating or flouting of maxims, which means that they only focus in the inference and implicatures of disobeying of the conversational maxims. Thus, the writer concludes that the flouting and violating of maxims in the humorous text or jokes, especially in comedy, has only one purpose that it can cause humor or make people laugh.

Based on those phenomena the writer has a great interest in conducting the study about the non observance of the maxims as found in humors. In this research the writer only give his focuses on the violating of maxims. By revealing and classifying all the conditions of violating maxims in humor, the writer can provide a complete explanation of humor under the linguistic subcategories, in this case Pragmatics. In conducting the research the writer takes the data from an e-book downloaded from internet with the title "Best Jokes". It is the best collections jokes from Reader's Digest magazines, this e-book contains 99 jokes. Reader's Digest is well-known international magazine that is read under 100 million readers every month. Besides that, the humor in the magazines are written

and contributed by common people from various countries and societies. It means that this e-book is qualified enough to be analyzed as the subject of the study.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

According to Grice the participants of conversation should obey the cooperative principle in order to achieve fluent conversation and avoid miscommunication. Nevertheless in some occurrence particularly in humor, the participants do not obey the cooperative principle, they intentionally or unintentionally violates the cooperative principle with the aim to produce humorous effect in conversation. Based on those reason, there are two research questions in this research. They are:

1. How are the conversational maxims violated in the conversation between the participants in humor
2. Which maxim is mostly violated in creating the humorous effect?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to find out how the conversational maxims are violated in the conversation between the participants in humor that make the story becomes funny. Then the writer also curious to know which maxim is violated the most frequently in producing humorous.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analyzing all the data, the writer finally comes up with the conclusion that the violating in humor does not mean that it cannot convey information, but more or less it is meant to evoke laughter or to create funniness. Furthermore, from the analysis based on the theory of Grice's Cooperative Principle, the writer found that in humor, people generally disobey cooperative principle.

The participants violate all the types of maxim in several ways such as by denying the truth, lying and by expressing an ironical statement (maxim of quality), by giving irrelevant answer, abruptly changing the subject and topic, comprehending the interlocutor's utterance literally (maxim of relation), then by giving information more than the situation requires, less informative (maxim of quantity), and by giving unclear information, obscure, not brief and ambiguous (maxim of manner).

Among the four maxims, the maxim of manner is the maxim that is most frequently violated to create different humorous effect that is 9 times (40,91%) of the overall data. The speakers violate the maxim of manner by giving unclear information and making the interlocutor confused, then by uttering ambiguous language, and expressing their idea obscurely as if trying to make people understand the implicit meaning behind their utterances. Maxim of quality is the least frequently maxim that is violated, which is found only 3 times (13,64%) of

the overall data. This type of maxim is violated by being less informative and giving too much useless explanation about something with the aim to emphasize an opinion, to save face, and to avoid getting into trouble.

The purposes of participants violating the conversational maxim in humor, among others to trick someone, to save face, to avoid from getting into troubles, to manipulate the fact, to avoid doing something that is dislike, to make a point and want their argument become stronger, to state self defense to explain more about something, trying to emphasize an opinion, to avoid being blamed , to maintain the dignity, to avoid from dislike condition, to make the utterance sound less offensive, eliminate any chance for the hearer to respond, to avoid punishment, to convey the willingness indirectly, and blurred out the mistakes.

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