



**VERBAL HUMOR IN LOUIS C.K.'S STAND-UP COMEDY CONCERT "OH MY GOD": THE  
PRAGMATIC STRATEGIES**

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Advisor,

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## VERBAL HUMOR IN LOUIS C.K.'S STAND-UP COMEDY CONCERT "OH MY GOD": THE PRAGMATIC STRATEGIES

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### ABSTRACT

This thesis is entitled *Verbal Humor in Louis C.K.'s Stand-up Comedy Concert "Oh My God": The Pragmatic Strategies*. This study is aimed at analyzing the pragmatic strategies and function of the stand-up comedy concert "Oh My God". The researcher used descriptive qualitative to analyze the data and used framework from Raskin and Attardo (1992) of General Theory of Verbal Humor (GTVH) and Grice's (1975) maxim of cooperative principle. Based on the analysis, the researcher found the script oppositeness always appears in every jokes. The logical mechanisms that are mostly used is faulty reasoning and exaggeration (15). The situations which have joke inside are 17 topics. The target which is mostly used in the whole joke is other people (29). The narrative strategy of the joke mostly uses description (34) and the language of the joke is mostly maxim of quantity violation (18). It can be concluded that joke from "Oh My God" Louis C.K. exaggerates and gives the faulty reason on the message to the audience to creates laughter. The researcher also found that the joke is a form of giving a narrative to the audiences to understand the reality that people face in another point of view.

**Keywords:** *Pragmatics, Stand-up Comedy, GTVH, Knowledge Resource, Cooperative Principle*

### INTRODUCTION

In society, people communicate with the other to deliver message one to another. In conducting communication, people use language as the media to deliver the message. This media can be used through two ways either directly or indirectly. Direct way means no mediator is used between the users, it is usually called spoken language. Spoken language is also means of form of communication which is produced by human voice and released through the mouth to produce a series of word arranged systematically, called utterance. The common example of spoken language is conversation between people. While the indirect communication is a communication which comes through the other communication bridge called communication device. This kind of communication usually called written language. Several examples, not limited to, to interpret the device is, letter, newspaper, and short message service (SMS). The representation of those direct and indirect phenomenon can be seen from an activity called public speaking.

Public speaking as literally viewed can be divided onto two words, public and speaking. Public means in mass and which deals with a lot of people while speaking means talk or say about something and as one of communication method. Thus, public-speaking is generally described as communication between one person to people other in mass scale. Public speaking is now become necessity because it is one of an effective ways to share idea to a massive scale of people. There are many situations which use public speaking as the media of communication such as presidential speech and sermon

of some religions. However, public speaking is not only limited to formal occasion, but also informal ones such as a stand-up comedy performance.

Stand-up comedy is the term for special genre of comedy in which a performer who is called stand-up comedian stands on the stage and speaks directly to the audiences. What makes stand-up comedy different from other public speaking is this individual intends to deliver jokes to the audiences. Stand-up comedy is already famous since the Renaissance era where it was performed by the clown to entertain the king (Schwarz, 2010). However, the essence of stand-up comedy is few to entertain among people not limited to certain people.

The stand-up comedian makes jokes in front of the audiences to amuse the audiences. Raskin (1994) states the joke carrying text should be opposed to the other script. Moreover, because of the opposing script that Raskin has stated, the joke mostly violates Grice's maxim. The maxim violations are caused by the opposing script which is intentionally made by the comedian to make the joke work. This violation of maxim is caused by the untrue statement which is delivered to the audiences in the performance. Nonetheless, joke involves fantasies, hyperbole, fiction, etc. which the audiences know the intention of the performer. To make clearer understanding of the research, here is an instance of the data:

*I live in New York. I always— like, there's this old lady in my neighborhood, and she's always walking her dog. She's always just—she's very old. **She just stands there just being old, and the dog just fights gravity every day, just—The two of them, it's really—The dog's got a cloudy eye, and she's got a cloudy eye, and they just stand there looking at the street in two dimensions together, and—and she's always wearing, like, this old sweater dress. I guess it was a sweater when she was, like, 5'10", but now it's just, like, this sweater and her legs are—her legs are awful. I saw a guy with no legs wheeling by, and he was like, "yecch, no thank you. I do not want those. I'd rather just have air down here like I have than to look down at that shit."** (Louis C.K. – Oh My God)*

On the excerpt above, there is a figurative language which is used by the Louis C.K. in delivering the joke to the audiences. Louis C.K. uses hyperbole as the figurative language to create laughter from the audiences whereas hyperbole is not a proper language to use in delivering a message. The way Louis C.K. delivers the message to the audiences is violating Grice's maxim. The audiences who receive unusual description of a leg, somehow, laugh as the reaction. Figurative language is one of many ways to deliver the joke on the stand-up comedy performance.

On the other hand, stand-up comedy performance is not merely about amusing the audiences with the joke, but it has other functions. Furthermore, stand-up comedy performance can be categorized into two. Firstly, stand-up comedy gigs routine. This category means the stand-up comedian is invited by some corporation to entertain and amuse the audiences. In gigs routine, the stand-up comedians, mostly, do not have a general topic that the comedian focuses. They prefer to deliver the funniest material of theirs. Secondly, stand-up comedy concert. In this category, the stand-up comedians mostly initiate to conduct their own routine. Usually, the stand-up comedians deliver their jokes in a big topic. Moreover, the stand-up comedians differ the joke from their

routine gigs with the concert, so the concert can be felt more personal than corporate gigs routine. The example of stand-up concert is one performed by Louis C.K. as can be seen above.

Having seen the comedy performance phenomenon by Louis C.K., the researcher is interested in analyzing the phenomenon that occurs in the stand-up comedy concert. The research focuses on the characteristics of the jokes which are delivered by Louis C.K. on his stand-up comedy concert "Oh My God". Hence, this research analyzes the utterance of the performer. Moreover, this research also analyzes the function of the joke in the concert. The analysis of the function of the joke will be taken from the whole joke delivered by Louis C.K.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Data and Subject**

The researcher used the data in form of transcription of Louis C.K. stand-up comedy concert. The researcher also needed the video to support the written data.

To help the researcher transcribe the show, the researcher used the subtitle of the show. The researcher downloaded the subtitle from the internet. The subtitle were taken from [www.tvsubtitle.com](http://www.tvsubtitle.com). The subtitle were downloaded in March, 2016.

### **Unit of Analysis**

The unit of analysis of this research is the utterance from the transcription of the stand-up comedy solo concert by Louis C.K. titled "Oh My God". The researcher only focused on the joke utterances, not on the performance of the stand-up comedy such as gesture, tone, etc.

### **Technique of Data Collection and Analysis**

Sorting the utterance containing maxim violation. The researcher only focused on utterances which contain maxim violation and acknowledge as the joke from the laugh of the audiences. The researcher only acknowledged the joke which makes laughter necessarily on the utterance not a slapstick joke. Classifying the maxim violation. After sorting all the utterances containing maxim violation, the researcher classified the data. The data were classified into the categories maxim of cooperative principle. Analyzing the joke. The researcher analyzed the utterances which are classified as the joke and contain maxim violation. The analysis focused on the KRs of GTVH and on the maxim violation of the joke. Analyzing the function of the joke. On the last step, the researcher analyzed the whole topic in general to draw the conclusion of the functions of the stand-up comedy concert. This analysis is not merely an assumption because it is generated from the analysis of the GTVH and maxim violation which have been mentioned before

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

The joke may carry different type of script oppositeness, but it always has the script oppositeness. On the other hand, the logical mechanism of the joke may vary, depending on how the performer to make the joke incongruent of the audiences. The researcher found nine different types of logical mechanism in Louis C.K. show "Oh My God". The most frequent logical mechanism used in this joke is faulty reasoning and

exaggeration (15). Furthermore, the researcher found 17 different situations used in the joke. The situation that mostly used is on Louis C.K.'s old life (10). Moreover, the researcher found five different categories of joke target. The target of the joke is supposed to make the audiences feel superior. Louis C.K. uses the other people (29) as the party who becomes a target of the joke. The narrative strategy of the joke mostly uses description (34). The last knowledge resource is language. The researcher focuses on the cooperative principle violation based on Grice (1975) as the basis of language aspect of the joke. In delivering his joke, Louis C.K. mostly violates maxim of quantity (18).

### **Pragmatic Strategies in Louis C.K.'s "Oh My God"**

#### **Maxim of Quality Violation**

Maxim of quality is violated when Louis C.K. presents his joke by telling something logically wrong or does not have any proof in the real fact. The joke violates maxim of quality because of the logical mechanism Louis C.K. used in the joke. The joke that violates the maxim of quality has false premise or the obviousness that been violated in the joke. Here are the excerpts followed by analysis to make the comprehensive understanding.

#### **Excerpt 1**

- (Line 92) I don't think they need to be separate things.  
 (Line 93) I really don't.  
 (Line 94) They don't care, and we don't care.  
 (Line 95) There's, like, three scientists who give a shit what we call all those things.  
 (Line 96) The scientists could go on tv tomorrow and say, "ok, everybody. From now on, seals and sea lions and walruses, and--you know what?—Penguins are all seals now,"  
 (Line 97) (laughter)  
 (Line 98) and we would all be like, "yeah, all right. Fine. Yes. Whatever, man."  
 (Line 99) (laughter)

<b>Script Oppositeness</b>	Care/do not care
<b>Logical Mechanism</b>	Reason from false premise
<b>Situation</b>	Animals
<b>Target</b>	Animals
<b>Narrative Strategy</b>	Description and dialogue
<b>Language</b>	Maxim of quality violation

The excerpt above can be explained as follows. The Script Oppositeness of the joke is care/does not care. The joke talks about the people who care and people who do not care about seals and sea lions. The Logical Mechanism of the joke is reason from false premise. Louis C.K. makes the premise that he thinks seals and sea lions should not be separated. The situation of the joke is on the topic of animal. The target of the joke is animal that been categorized by the scientists as same species with seals. The Narrative strategy of the joke is description and dialogue. This is the way to make the audiences understand the situation of the joke. The language aspect of the joke is maxim of quality violation. This joke violates the cooperative principle because Louis C.K. brings the wrong fact about the animals.

The script oppositeness of the joke shows that the joke talks about the people who care and do not care about those animal categorized into. In line 95 and 96, Louis C.K. says that three scientists care about the category of seals, sea lions, walruses, and penguins. On the other hand, in line 98 Louis C.K. shows that the people do not care what they called. From the logical mechanism, the premise of the joke is when he thinks that seals and walruses should not been separated and this is wrong because in the matter of fact, those animals have different characteristic, hence it is called in different terms. Louis C.K. gives the reason that people do not care by making a parody how people react when those animals named as same species. This reason creates a laughter from the audiences because the audiences do not expect the reason of the premise simply because people do not care about those animal being called. The audiences acknowledge these lines as joke because the aspect of amusement in the lines.

The situation of the joke is on the topic of animal. This topic talks when Louis C.K. taking his kids to Boston aquarium. In that place, Louis C.K. saw an animal. He does not really sure whether that is seals or sea lions. From that moment he thought those animal should not been separated. The target of the joke is the animal, precisely seals and sea lions, because how people do not care about the animal as a form of mockery. This makes people feel superior compare to the animal because they think that its life is not necessary to be consider. The narrative strategy of the joke is description and dialogue. Louis C.K. delivers his thought about seals and sea lions by describing the reason. The dialogues support the reason how people do not really care about seals and sea lions being called by making a parody of scientist who try to convince people that seals and sea lions is one species.

When delivering this topic, Louis C.K. violates maxim of quality. This violation occurs because Louis C.K. presents wrong statement in the joke. It can be seen in line 94. He thinks that these animals should not be separated. However, he does not have a decent reason and adequate prove to say that these animals should be on same species. Louis C.K. describes the reason, but, since the premise that he gives is factually wrong, it still cannot been accepted. It relates with the logical mechanism about the false premise that he uses to present his joke to the audiences. Louis C.K. intentionally presents a wrong fact, which according to cooperative principle, speaker should not give the message that does not have adequate evidence. These elements relate with the maxim of quality violation because the reason that he gives is not reliable.

#### **Maxim of Quantity Violation**

Maxim of quantity is violated when Louis C.K. brings the joke that has too much information to be transferred to the audiences. This type mostly explains the thought of Louis C.K. to the audiences with more than enough information or just to emphasize the idea to the audiences. Here are the excerpts followed by analysis to make a comprehensive understanding.

#### **Excerpt 2**

(Line 22) She's always just— she's very old.

(Line 23) She just stands there just being old, and the dog just fights gravity every day, just— The two of them, it's really— The dog's got a cloudy eye, and she's got a cloudy eye, and they just stand there looking at the street In two dimensions together, and— and she's always wearing, like, this old sweater dress.

(Line 24) (laughter)

(Line 25) I guess it was a sweater when she was, like, 5'10", but now it's just, like, this sweater and her legs are— her legs are a nightmare.

(Line 26) They're just white with green streaks and bones sticking out.

(Line 27) (laughter)

<b>Script Oppositeness</b>	Old/young
<b>Logical Mechanism</b>	Exaggeration
<b>Situation</b>	Old lady walking her dog
<b>Target</b>	Old lady.
<b>Narrative Strategy</b>	Description
<b>Language</b>	Maxim of quantity violation

The excerpt above can be explained as follows. The Script Oppositeness of the joke is old/young. This joke talks about the old lady that always walking her dog every morning and how old and awful the old lady, is especially in the legs. The Logical Mechanism of the joke is exaggeration. Exaggeration is an explanation that is overwhelmed by the speaker in depicting the situation that he faces. The Situation of the joke is on the topic of old lady walking her dog. This situation talks about the situation that Louis C.K. faced. The target of the joke is the old lady. Target of the joke is the subject of the joke delivered by Louis C.K. The Narrative Strategy of the joke is description. Description is the way Louis C.K. delivers his thought and transfers the message regarding the joke. The Language of the joke is Maxim of quantity violation. Maxim of quantity means that the message delivered to the audiences is straight to the point.

From the KRs explanation above, it shows that the joke satisfies all the KRs from GTVH. From the first script, the Script Oppositeness of the joke is old/young. This joke talks about the old lady walking her dog every day. Line 22 and 23 says the lady is very old and in line 25 says about the old lady's leg. The explanations of the old lady and her legs are in line 23 and 26. The description of the old lady and her leg is related with the Logical Mechanism of the joke. The Logical Mechanism of the joke is exaggeration. Louis C.K. in intentionally exaggerating the condition of the old lady to make her look very awful and pity at the same time. These two Knowledge Resources make the audiences laugh because of the incongruent message that is delivered by Louis C.K. The audiences assume that the description of the oldness of the lady is about the appearance of her that is more on physical outlook. However, Louis C.K. describes the behavior of this lady that she and her dog are always standing and being old. The unexpected message triggers the reaction from the audiences as a laughter.

The situation of the joke is when he saw an old lady walking her dog in New York. This situation is related with the Target of the joke which is the old lady. Louis C.K. explains the situation of the old lady that he saw when he was in his neighborhood in New York. The old lady becomes the target of the joke because most of the joke is talking about how old the lady is and how bad her condition is in his point of view. In line 23, Louis C.K. says the old lady "stands there just being old" and in line 26 he describes the old lady's leg by saying "They're just white with green streaks and bones sticking out." These two lines refer to the old lady that he met in New York as the form of insult. The explanation makes the audiences feel superior than the target, hence it generates laughter from the audiences. The Narrative strategy of the joke is description. This is the way Louis C.K. transfers the message to the audiences so they can understand the circumstance Louis C.K. faced at that moment.



When delivering this topic, Louis C.K. violates maxim of quantity. This is because Louis C.K. gives too much information about the oldness and the badness of the old lady. According to the cooperative principle, the message should be as concise as possible and straight to the point. Louis C.K. describes the oldness of the old lady with more information than the audiences need. The Logical Mechanism of the joke also takes role in this violation. The way Louis C.K. describes the oldness and the badness in line 23 and 26 is redundant and not straight to the point and does not necessary to the audiences to understand the condition of the old lady. Louis C.K. describes the old lady's life with standing and being old and how she and her dog have cloudy eyes is not necessary for the audiences to know about that simply to say that old lady is so terrible. These are also because the script oppositeness of the joke about old/young that Louis C.K. describes in the joke. These elements relate with the maxim of quantity violation because the information about the description of old lady is too much

**Maxim of Relevance**

Maxim of relevance is violated because one single joke is not related to another topic or there is sudden change of topic when Louis C.K. delivers the joke. The joke which violates this maxim is mostly because it has faulty reasoning as the logical mechanism. This logical mechanism is an attempt to make reason of one action or statement that can be accepted. However, the reason is not relevant with the action or statement that Louis C.K. said before. Here is the excerpt followed by analysis to make the understanding comprehensively

**Excerpt 3**

- (Line 6) Well, this is a nice place.
- (Line 7) This is easily the nicest place for many miles in every direction.
- (Line 8) (laughter)
- (Line 9) That's how you compliment a building and shit on a town with one sentence.
- (Line 10) (laughter)

<b>Script Oppositeness</b>	Nice/bad
<b>Logical Mechanism</b>	Faulty Reasoning
<b>Situation</b>	Phoenix, Philadelphia
<b>Target</b>	Celebrity Theater
<b>Narrative Strategy</b>	Description
<b>Language</b>	Maxim of relevance violation

The excerpt above can be explained as follows. The first Knowledge resource is the Script oppositeness. The script oppositeness of this joke is nice/bad. This joke talks about the nice and bad condition of the building. On the logical mechanism, Louis C.K. uses faulty reasoning. Faulty reasoning is a mechanism which makes the audiences' expectation fall down because the reason is not relevant or cannot be accepted by normal logic on the reality. The next knowledge resource is situation. The situation of this joke is on the topic of Phoenix, Philadelphia, where the show takes place. The situation of the joke is when Louis C.K. describes what he thought about the stage and the building. The target of this joke is Celebrity Theater, where Louis C.K. held the show. Louis C.K. uses the building as the target because the joke is about the place where he conducted the show. The narrative strategy of the joke is description. It is the way of delivery of the message and thought of Louis C.K. relating with the joke to the

audiences. The LA of the joke is maxim of relevance violation, which will be explained in detail in the following part.

From the explanation of every single of the KR's above, the hierarchy of the KR's can be seen and it can make a single joke through the approach of GTVH. The SO of the joke talks about the bad and the nice thing about the building which Louis C.K. uses as the stage of the show. In line 6 Louis C.K. says that the stage is the nicest place of the building. In line 9 Louis says the reason why he says about the stage is the nice building. However, the reason that he says that the building is wrong because he says it as the form of mockery. The reason given by Louis C.K. is out of the expectation of the audiences because, generally, when a person says a nice thing about something, it is a form of compliment. Yet, it makes the incongruity of the audiences which creates a reaction from the audiences as the form of amusement.

The situation of the joke is on the topic of Phoenix, Philadelphia. This joke is told when Louis C.K. on the stage and he tells what he feels about the stage. The target of the joke is the Celebrity Theater where the show takes place. The joke talks about the situation of the stage and the building, which according to Louis C.K., is "the nicest place for many miles in every direction." The time when Louis C.K. says the reason about the building, which is as the compliment and mockery, creates laughter from the audiences as the form of the superiority of the audiences toward the place that they think is bad. The Narrative strategy of the joke is description. This is the way Louis C.K. delivers his thought and transfers the message to the audiences to make them understand what he wants to present.

When delivering this topic, Louis C.K. violates the maxim of relevance. This violation occurs because Louis C.K. says that the place is bad, which is not relevant with what he was saying as nice place in the previous line. The joke is in form of description to make the audiences understand about the situation that he feels when he is on the stage. Louis C.K. describes the stage as "the nicest place." On the other hand, in line 9, he says that the reason why he says that is to give compliment and to mock the building in one sentence. This difference causes from the script oppositeness that overlaps on the nice and bad of the stage. The Logical mechanism of the joke also takes part on this joke because the faulty reasoning on why he uses word "nicest" is not relevant with the meaning of "goodness" that contained in that word. These elements relate with the maxim of relevance violation because what he says about the building and the reason is different thing that should be separated in two different topics.

#### **Maxim of Manner**

Maxim of manner is violated when the joke possibly makes the audiences confused with the information brought by Louis C.K. The joke can be categorized as the maxim of manner violation because the joke is not brief or creates an ambiguity. The violation occurs on the joke which has referential ambiguity, missing link, and juxtapose on the logical mechanism. Here are the excerpts followed by analysis to make the understanding comprehensively

#### **Excerpt 4**

(Line 174) I live in New York City, and it's ok there.

(Line 175) I live in a nice building.

(Line 176) I never lived in a nice place before.

(Line 177) When I was growing up, I had no money.

(Line 178) I mean, my mom didn't.

(Line 179) (laughter)

<b>Script Oppositeness</b>	Poor/rich
<b>Logical Mechanism</b>	Referential ambiguity
<b>Situation</b>	Guy in the courtyard
<b>Target</b>	Himself
<b>Narrative Strategy</b>	Description
<b>Language</b>	Maxim of manner violation

The excerpt above can be explained as follows. The script oppositeness of the joke is poor/rich. This joke tells about Louis C.K. in the present time and when he is still kid. In the moment when he was still a kid, he lived in a poor condition. However, he is one of successful comedians in the present time and becomes a rich person. The logical mechanism of the joke is referential ambiguity. Referential ambiguity is a reference that the speaker uses that can be referred into two different things. The situation of the joke is in the topic of guy in the courtyard. This part talks of the condition of Louis C.K. when he was still a kid. The target of the joke is himself. The joke refers to Louis C.K. because he tells the story about himself. The narrative strategy of the joke is description. This joke tells about the situation of Louis C.K. as the involved party in the joke. The language aspect of the joke is maxim of manner violation. The violation occurs because of the ambiguity found in this joke.

From the knowledge resources explanation above, the joke has satisfied all of six knowledge resources. The script oppositeness of the joke is poor/rich. This joke talks about the life of Louis C.K. when he was growing up. The joke tells that he lived with a poor family back then. However, in the present time, he is successful to gain money as comedian and becomes rich. It can be seen in line 174 and 175 that he life in a nice building in New York. It shows that he can afford to have a nice building in New York which is one of big cities in the United States of America. In line 176 and 177, Louis C.K. tells the condition before he got to New York. The logical mechanism of the joke is referential ambiguity. It can be seen in line 177 and 178. In line 177 he says that he had no money when he was kid. However, in line 178, he clarifies that his mom was the one who did not have money. It creates confusion for the hearer to understand the one who did not have money. On the other hand, it creates the laughter from the audiences because they perceive as the form of incongruence.

The situation of the joke is on the general topic of guy in the courtyard. This joke talks about Louis C.K. is a kid. The joke tells about Louis C.K. living with poor family as a kid. This is an opening from the topic. Before he tells the audiences that he has courtyard in his building, Louis C.K. explains how he lived when he was a kid. He explains that he never lived in the nice building before, because when he was a kid he lived in the poor family and he had no money, as well as his mother. These lines emphasize the comparison between Louis C.K. when he was still kid and had no money and when he in the present time and can afford to live in the nice building which has a courtyard. Then, when he is in the present time, he lived in the nice building which has a courtyard in it. Someday, on a Sunday morning, he came down to the courtyard and found a guy that looks at Louis C.K. suspiciously. The target of the joke is himself. Louis C.K. uses himself as the target because he tells about the poverty when he was still a kid. He delivers his condition to the audiences that he had no money and did not live in the nice building like he has in the present time. The audiences perceive their superiority and laugh. The narrative strategy of the joke is description. The delivery of the joke is narrative because

in those lines, Louis C.K describes the condition of himself in the present and the past time, when he was kid.

When delivering this topic, Louis C.K. violates maxim of manner. The violation occurs because of the ambiguity in the joke. According to cooperative principle, the message sent to the hearer should be brief and prevent ambiguity. The ambiguity occurs in line 178 because the reference is not clear where it belongs to. In line 177, Louis C.K. says that he is the one that did not have the money, but it is clarified by himself that his mom is the one that did not have the money. It makes the audiences confused whether he or his mom was the one who did not have the money. The Logical Mechanism in this joke also takes part in this violation because Louis C.K. intentionally makes the confusion with the referential ambiguity to create laughter from the joke. In line 175 to 177, Louis C.K. describes the condition of himself without necessarily mentioning other parties. However, in line 178 he mentions his mother as the one that did not have money back then. These elements relate with the maxim of manner violation because the ambiguity of the reference makes the information given to the audiences is not clear.

### **Function of the joke**

The researcher found Louis C.K. delivers 20 different topics in his stand-up comedy shows. The topics vary from his own live experience, his thought about people and his thought about something, like, animal or human life. The title "Oh My God" makes the show seem like he is going to complain about everything in this world. This precisely happens in his show. Louis C.K. delivers his thought about the world in his point of view well. The analysis on this part is classified based on the general topic which he delivers in the show.

### **Louis C.K.'s Own Life**

Louis C.K. transfers his thought about his life experience of having pets, his divorce, and his old life. He delivers the thought in a funny way. The analysis is on the excerpt below.

### **Excerpt 5**

- (Line 621) I've been divorced for five years, and it's been the best part of my life, being divorced, easily my favorite part of my life.
- (Line 622) I love being divorced.
- (Line 623) Every year has been better than the last.
- (Line 624) That is the only time I can say that about, And by the way, I'm not saying don't get married.
- (Line 625) If you meet somebody, fall in love and get married,
- (Line 626) and then get divorced because that's the best part.
- (Line 627) (laughter)
- (Line 628) It's the best part.
- (Line 629) Marriage is just like a larva stage for true happiness, which is divorce, because you just let go and everything's fine now.
- (Line 630) (laughter)

These lines show how Louis C.K. manages the divorce as the best thing that could ever happen in a marriage. He says to the audiences that divorce, unlike marriage, is a long last condition. He even advises married people to get divorce to get the best time

of their life. Louis C.K. tells the audiences that divorce does not always mean bad for people because after divorce, people can share time to take care of their child.

This joke makes people realize that everything is not always black or white, but sometimes it is grey. This joke gives the depiction that divorce still has a good thing to the parents. He says that divorce gives the true happiness after they get married.

### **Louis C.K.'s Thought to Other Thing**

Louis C.K. has some thoughts about other people. He puts many thought about other people in "Oh My God", such as women who say yes to men to have a night together. Louis C.K. says that what women play to men when they are in date is ill-advised thing that women ever made. This is the line which talks about that

### **Excerpt 5**

(Line 496) A woman saying yes to a date with a man is literally insane and ill-advised, and the whole species' existence counts on them doing it, and I don't know how they—

(Line 497) How do women still go out with guys when you consider the fact that there is no greater threat to women than men?

(Line 498) We're the number-one threat to women.

(Line 499) Globally and historically, we're the number-one cause of injury and mayhem to women.

(Line 500) We're the worst thing that ever happens to them.

(Line 501) That's true.

(Line 502) You know what our number-one threat is?

(Line 503) Heart disease.

(Line 504) That's the whole thing.

(Line 505) (laughter)

These lines shows that Louis C.K. tries to give a narrative to the audiences, especially to women, that men are the worst thing that could do something to women. This thought is not merely an assumption from Louis C.K. himself, but it is on the statistic that men are the highest cause of the injury and mayhem to women. The injuries that women could get from man are abuses, rapes, and the worst thing is killing.

Moreover, Louis explains that in opposite, men do not have any problem with women in terms of threat. Louis C.K. explains that the number one threat to men is heart disease. This is because most men get threat because of some disease which does not involve other direct parties to cause that, not even women.

### **Conclusion**

The pragmatic strategies of the joke were analyzed through knowledge resources from General Theory of Verbal Humor from Raskin and Attardo (1992). The researcher found Louis C.K. stand-up comedy "Oh My God" violates 4 maxims of Grice's cooperative principles of pragmatic strategies from 897 lines. The violation occurs from 20 different topics from that show. All the elements of the knowledge resources are inherent with the maxim violations because the structure of the joke creates violation of the cooperative principle. The works of cooperative principles are to transfer the message and make the cooperation between the speaker and the hearer done well. Yet, because of the knowledge resources, the cooperative principles are violated to create the incongruence.

In this research, the researcher found that Louis C.K. mostly exaggerates and gives the faulty reason of the message to the audiences in “Oh My God” to create laughter. The exaggeration and faulty reason works because the audiences do not expect the way Louis C.K. exaggerates and explains the reason the joke. This is the typical of Louis C.K. in doing his comedy and creates incongruence to the audiences.

The researcher found the stand-up comedy is not only a way to get some entertainment, but also has another function as the performer delivers the message to the audiences. “Oh My God” has some other functions of other than amusement. The researcher found on “Oh My God”, Louis C.K. makes people understand the reality that people face in another point of view.

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