

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the phenomenon described above, the researcher analyzes the utterance based on the theory of verbal humor and cooperative principle. Thus, the statements of problems are:

1. What are the pragmatic strategies used in Louis C.K.'s stand-up comedy concert entitled "Oh My God"?
2. What are the functions of the joke in Louis C.K.'s stand-up comedy concert entitled "Oh My God"?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem, the object of the study will be:

1. To investigate the pragmatic strategies in Louis C.K.'s stand-up comedy concert entitled "Oh My God"
2. To investigate the functions of the joke in Louis C.K.'s stand-up comedy concert entitled "Oh My God"

1.4 Scope of the Study

The research focuses on the Grice's maxim violation on Louis C.K.'s joke and is based on the General Theory of Verbal Humors (GTVH). The researcher limits the study only on the verbal joke excluding the performance aspects such as gesture, tone, etc.

1.5 Significant of the Study

This research is expected to be useful for the researcher and the reader in general. However the researcher also expects that this research becomes:

1. Contribution to the writer in discovering and analyzing the joke, in general, and especially GTVH analysis
2. One of the bases or references for the students and develop more by the student in general, especially student of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro Semarang.

1.6 Thesis organization

In order to present this thesis systematically in accordance to writing principle and to make it easy for the readers to understand the content of the thesis, it is presented in five chapters with the following organization.

The first chapter is introduction. It consists of background of the study, statements of the problems, scope of the study, objective of the study, significant of the study, and thesis organization.

The second chapter is review of related literature. This chapter is arranged to support and direct the researcher in analyzing the data of the problem.

The third chapter is research method that begins with the method used in this chapter. This chapter contains five sub chapters: research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

The fourth chapter is data analysis. It presents research finding and discussion.

The last chapter is the conclusion. It also presents suggestion from the researcher related to the subject being analyzed.