

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background of the study. It draws attention to the investigation of structure of the jokes, the types of humorous interactions, and social functions of the humor in Muhadkly Acho's Stand Up comedy performance. This chapter also provides the statements of problems, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research methods, data collection, data analysis, and organization of the study

1.1 Background of The Study

People have various kinds of feelings and need many ways to express the feelings. Humor is one of the ways that people commonly use to express such feelings as a way of releasing. Flugel (1954: 709) states that humor as the quality in individuals that mediates comic to the amusing, laughable, ludicrous, witty, and funny things. Through humor, the psychological burden that people get from the routine life can be released by laughing. Nowadays, humors are often used to criticize the social issues developed among society, and the topics can be various, such as economic, culture, religion, education, and others.

The humor study in its development was researched in many perspectives. The pioneer of the research was Sigmund Freud (1905) who was micro scoping humor from its psychoanalytical aspects. Freud's perspective towards humor was psychological, based on the dynamic among *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. It was said in

his works (1928, 1960) that humor the commanded superego so that it would slow down the ego from seeking pleasure for the id, or to momentarily adapt itself to the demands of reality.

A century ahead, the research of humor started to be analyzed from its register to produce an effective responds from the audiences of the jokes. Gilbert (2004) discovered that there were potential in delivering jokes effectively to the audiences by doing self-deprecation of the comics in the Stand Up comedy performance.

In another perspective, humor was also analyzed from pragmatics aspects, especially by looking through Grice's cooperative principles. Setiawan (2005), described that some violations of Grice's cooperative principle and some maxims could produce an effective laughter of the audiences.

In the recent research, humor was also analyzed more specifically from its types, such as jokes and conversational humor. Dynel (2009) conducted research on humor in another perspective by accounting the differences between jokes and conversational humor. The basis of joke's term covers a variety of semantic and pragmatic types of humor, which happened many times and again in interpersonal communication, whether real-life (everyday conversations or TV programs) or fictional (film and book dialogues).

In this study, some quite different perspectives towards humor are described. This study proposes new research of Indonesian Stand Up Comedy from its socio-pragmatics perspective.

In Indonesia, the studies of humor are still a few. The ranges of the research are mostly concerned with the linguistic aspects. In Indonesia, the studies of humor are mostly analyzed from its pragmatics aspects, such as the maxim violations, politeness strategy, the cooperative principles, etc. The study of humor is still developing in terms of its history, substance of the jokes and even its application.

Stand Up comedy is one of genre in delivering humor recently developed in Indonesia. Stand Up comedy is defined as a comedy that is presented by the comic(s)/performer(s) who stand on the stage in front of the direct audiences verbally. The topics that are delivered in Stand Up comedy are various, and the ways of conveying the jokes are also distinctively clever; it could be observational, impersonating the jokes in some figures of characters, gesturing, even in improvisation. Thus, cognitive coordination added by the pragmatic knowledge of the audiences are quite determining in grasping such as comedy.

At present in Indonesia, Stand Up comedy has been an alternative entertainment broadcasted in the television. Metro TV as one of Indonesian TV station even broadcasts at least three programs on Stand Up Comedy, namely *Open Mic*, *Galaunite*, *Stand Up Comedy Show*. According to *Rolling Stones Indonesia Magazine*, *Stand Up Comedy Show* of Metro TV is rated 1,3 with 7,8 share which means a very good parameter for its first episode. Additionally, Kompas TV as one of new TV stations makes its own breakthrough by broadcasting “Stand Up Comedy Indonesia Competition”.

In Indonesia, Stand Up Comedy show is now still developing and in a process to have more chances to be broadcasted in Television. Pandji Pragiwaksono and Raditya Dika are two prominent figures who establish Stand Up Comedy in Indonesia these days. As time goes by, comics (Stand Up Comedy performers) are dramatically popping up some potential names such as Mongol, Sammy, Soleh Solihun, Cak Lontong, Abdel, Muhadkly Acho, etc. The last name mentioned is one comic whose his jokes were analyzed in this study, Muhadkly Acho.

The objective of this study is to describe the general structure, types, and social functions of the jokes of one Indonesian Stand Up comedy comic named Muhadkly Acho. Muhadkly Acho (32) is one of Indonesian “celebrity of Twitter” that has more than 30,000 followers in Twitter and is still increasing. He is an expert of IT, online media field, an active blogger, and a comic. His twits on the Twitter (@muhadkly) are extraordinarily interesting, inspiring and triggering mind to do the best of its capability in visualizing the words inside the head. By conducting this research, it is hoped that the researcher can describe the general structure, types, and social functions of one particular comic’s jokes, Muhadkly Acho to enrich the socio-pragmatics of humor theory. This study can also be one of references for the further researchers who are willing to expand the scope of the research on this topic.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

From the preceding explanation, this research is to answer these following questions:

- 1) How is the general structure of Muhadkly Acho's jokes?
- 2) What are the most common types of the humorous interactions delivered in Muhadkly Acho's performance?
- 3) What are the social functions of Muhadkly Acho's humor?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are:

- 1) To describe how is the general structures of Muhadkly Acho's jokes.
- 2) To investigate the most common types of humorous interactions in Muhadkly Acho's Stand Up comedy performance.
- 3) To describe the social functions of humor from Muhadkly Acho's Stand Up comedy performances.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research can be contributing to the humor research field as it is still rarely done in Indonesia especially microscoping Stand Up comedy performances. Through this research people can possibly understand about the general structure of a joke, the most common type of humorous interaction used, and also the social functions of humor in Stand Up comedy performances.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The research focuses only on the investigation of socio-pragmatics analysis in Muhadkly Acho's Stand Up comedy performances and the description of the jokes general structure, types, and also social functions of the humor. The data that were analyzed were only taken from the transcribed texts from the videos of Muhadkly's Stand Up Comedy performance regardless the para-linguistics elements of the comic.

1.6 Research Method

This study uses qualitative approach whose the function is to serve lived experience directly not through an abstract generalization (Alwasilah, 2002:45). Additionally, Maxwell (1996: 27) remarked that qualitative design was to understand the meaning of the events, situations, and actions that the participants in the study involved. Since there was a descriptive purpose in this study, the researcher uses descriptive method here. Descriptive method was particularly applied to explain, analyze and classify the data (Gay, 1987: 139).

1.6.1 Data Collection

The data were collected by transcribing the utterances from four videos downloaded from Youtube.com. The four videos of Muhadkly Acho performances were performed in the different places and events. The transcriptions of the four

videos were generally identified in terms of the jokes, then were transcribed and finally became the data to be analyzed in the study.

1.6.2 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data or the transcriptions, the first step was describing the general structure of Muhadkly Acho's jokes by capturing some of Muhadkly's jokes then identifying the jokes. The next step was identifying the utterances based on Attardo's types of humorous interaction categories like joke telling, conversational jokes, teasing, and ritual joking. Finally, the social functions of the humor identified based on Attardo's classes of humor social functions, such as social management, decommitment, mediation, and defunctionalization.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study is organized in five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction. It provides the background of research, the statements of problems, the aims of the study, the significance of the study, the scope of the study, research methods, data collection, data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of the study. Chapter II is Theoretical Foundation. It consists of some theories that are relevant to the study. It includes speech acts, and politeness. It also includes Stand Up comedy trivial and previous study. Chapter III is Research Method. This chapter explains the theories applied in the study. It includes research questions, research method, data sources, and technique of transcribing. Chapter IV is Findings and Discussions. This chapter serves the findings and discussions of the study. Chapter

V is Conclusion and Suggestions. It reports the conclusions of the study and suggestions of the study.

