

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Human language is unique in comparison to other forms of communication, such as those used by animals, because it allows human to produce an infinite set of utterances from a finite set of elements, and because the symbols and grammatical rules of any particular language are largely arbitrary, so that the system can only be acquired through social interaction. The known systems of communication used by animals, on the other hand, can only express a finite number of utterances that are mostly genetically transmitted. Human language is also unique in that its complex structure has evolved to serve a much wider range of functions than any other kinds of communication system.

Human beings have two roles in life, namely as individual and social creatures. As social creatures, people cannot live alone. They need other people to fulfill their need and help them to solve their problems. To communicate with others, they need a tool of communication and interaction; Therefore, they create a language as a communication tool. They use a language to avoid misunderstanding and miscommunication. This is related to the definition of language is a system of arbitrary verbal symbol by which member of speech community used as a means of communication to interact and express their ideas, feeling and thoughts. Another definition given by Trudgill (1974: 125) who states language is not only a means of communicating information about the weather or other subjects, but also a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with others. The definition above shows that language has an important role in human life and it is the central to the most human activities.

Language is used differently based on the social context. For example, testimony which is made by someone in a court and in a job interview is different. Language used by a comedian in a comedy show is also different from other languages. In the comedy show, the utterances should evoke laughter of the audiences. It means every comedian must be able to formulate a good joke to evoke laughter.

In Indonesia We have many TV programs that provide humor shows. Those are Opera Van Java, Yuk Keep Smile, Pesbukers, and many more. Those TV shows entertain and give effects to the audiences. Good and bad effects of the shows are the product of creativity. In this recent time their creativity is always related to body contact (physical violence) or humiliation (mental violence). They produce many acts and new words and sometimes there is no educative input instead shows violence. Among many of them, Stand up Comedy is one of TV Shows that provide humor in new way.

Stand-up Comedy is considered as a new type of comedy show, and it started to become famous and widely shown on television in 2011. Kompas TV is the television station that present and introduce the show of stand-up comedy for the first time, and now it is popularized by Metro TV. The official purpose of the performance in Stand up Comedy is to make the audiences laugh and thereby they are entertained.

A person who delivers jokes in Stand up Comedy is called comic. There are many famous comics in Indonesia. Some of them are the late of Taufik Savalas, Cak Lontong, Abdel, Mongol, Raditya Dika and many more. Some of the famous comics in Indonesia and most viewed in YouTube are Cak Lontong, Jui Purwoto, and Abdel Achrian. Cak lontong has his own characteristic. His joke is mostly

related to logical settings. The characteristic of Jui Purwoto is mostly related to teenage or young life. And Abdel tends to social and culture of Indonesian.

Nevertheless Stand up Comedy is not as popular as the others as mentioned above. It can be seen by the time of the program in television. It is always broadcast on TV at 10.00 PM up, while programs such OVJ, YKS, Pesbukers etc always broadcast on prime time at around 6-10 P.M. Therefore that the comics of Stand up Comedy provide jokes in sentences that are not easy to understand by most of people. It tends to entertain and interact with the audiences with knowledge understanding that is covered with words or body languages. For most people in Indonesia it is something new and strange that we must think of it and then laugh. That is why Stand up Comedy show is only watched by limited people, most of them are university students and those who have high sense of humor.

The language used by comics in Stand up Comedy is very interesting. (Beeman, 1999) states that there are three steps of how comedic language works. These three steps can be found in both the construction and the interpretation of humor and, as such, they are being proposed here as being at least logically implicit in the process. The first step emerges from a very general principle. In all actions that are considered humorous, one finds something unexpected or surprising. They violate expectations from some perspective. The second step emerges when it is forced to interpret a foregrounded action. At this second stage of the process—in the form of the logical analytical reconstruction aimed to find a proposition or a series of related propositions that will make the foregrounded act recognizable as a socially coherent act of some kind. Finally the third and last step reconstructed logically the form of explicit propositions, here knowledge is used to ‘ground’ the

foregrounded action(s) such that they become not only socially coherent and thus recognizable, but also arguably humorous in some sense.

Dean (2000) simplifies the term with set up and punch. Set up is the first part of the joke that prepares audience to laugh. It creates an expectation and raises an assumption of the audience. Punch is the second part of the joke that evokes laughter. It presents a surprise that is still relevant to the first story but different from our expectation. For example from this joke:

*Saya sudah menikah selama dua puluh tahun dan cinta sejati
saya hanya ada di satu perempuan. (set up)*

*Andai istri saya kenal perempuan itu, saya bisa dibunuh.
(punch)*

In the first sentence the audiences assume that the man tells that he does love his wife. But in the second story the assumption of the audiences is violated by the words if my wife knew her, I would be killed. Actually he loves another woman and has a secret relationship.

Jokes that they convey are often associated with the social, culture, government criticism and so forth. All are covered with words - that make us laugh. They must master the techniques of delivering jokes and express their intention appropriately that the message can be well received by the audience as they perform lively in front of audiences. One of the theories that can support language user to understand about what the comics mean is speech acts.

Speech act is a technical term in linguistics and the philosophy of language. Josiah and Johnson (2012:262) state that speech act is a process in which a person uses an utterance to perform an act such as stating fact, stating an opinion, confirming or denying something, making a prediction or a request, asking a

question, issuing an order, giving a permission, giving a piece of advice, making an offer, making a promise, thanking somebody or condoling somebody.

There are three types of act performed by a speaker in uttering a sentence (Austin 1962). The first is a locutionary act, the performance of an utterance: the actual utterance and its ostensible meaning, comprising phonetic, phatic and rhetic acts corresponding to the verbal, syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance; the second is an illocutionary act: the semantic 'illocutionary force' of the utterance, thus its real, intended meaning and in certain cases a further the third is perlocutionary act: its actual effect, such as persuading, convincing, scaring, enlightening, inspiring, or otherwise getting someone to do or realize something, whether intended or not. It means it is important to consider some ways in which the meaning of sentence in terms of what the speaker of those sentences intends to convey is interpreted. In other words speech is closely related to the intention of the speaker. Austin (1988:21) points out that in uttering a sentence, we can do things as well as say things. In addition, Austin (1962:231) stated that while sentence can often be used to report states of affairs, the utterances of some sentences must be treated as the performance of act. The choice of speech act theory as the linguistic framework for the analysis of Stand up Comedian on Metro TV is premised on the fact that comics perform various actions through the use of words and when utterances are made, a particular act is performed as well.

The language used by each comedian is different in a stand up comedy show. Cak Lontong, Abdel. Jui Purwanto and others comedians have their own way in delivering their jokes. For example:

Cak Lontong

Walaupun kehidupan itu berat namun kuncinya kita harus pasrah dan berserah.

(set up)

(directives – suggesting)

Contohnya saya sendiri, saya punya dua anak, berat membiayai hidup lalu saya pasrahkan dan serahkan ke mertua dan hidup saya menjadi ringan.(punch)

(Representative – explaining)

In the first statement he suggests the audiences to run this life to be sincere. In the second statement he doesn't give an example about resignation and sincerity of life but he informs that he gives his children to his parent in law so that his life is lighter than before. The expectation raises a surprise that is covered with directive and representative act. He performs this speech act directly. It can be easily understood by the audience.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher is interested in investigating the use of speech acts by the comedians on Stand up Comedy on Metro TV. The types of speech act, the way they utter the speech acts and why they use the types of speech acts as very important to make their jokes successful. They must be able to build a good communication. The audiences must know what comics mean, and it will evoke a great laughter. In this case, the choice of speech acts theory as linguistic framework for the analysis in Stand up Comedy show on Metro TV is based on the fact that the comedians perform various actions through various utterances.

1.2 The Focus of the Research

The focus of this research is “Speech acts used by comedian on Metro TV”. Based on the background of the study the problems were investigated operationally are formulated as follows.

1. What types of speech acts are used by the Stand up Comedian on Metro TV?
2. How are the speech acts used by the Stand up Comedian on Metro TV?
3. Why are those types of speech acts used in the ways they are?

1.3 The objectives of the study

The objectives of this analysis are (1) to discover the types of speech acts used by the comics in Stand up Comedy on Metro TV, (2) to describe the way of performing acts used by Stand up Comedian on Metro TV. (3) to explain the reason why those types of speech acts are used in the way they are.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

There are many comics who perform on Stand up Comedy show in Metro TV. This research only focused on speech acts used by Cak Lontong, Jui Purwoto and Abdel Achrian to their audiences during stand up comedy show. The researcher decides to choose these three comics because they are most popular and most viewed in Youtube as Indonesian comics. Each of them has his own unique style of performing jokes. The focus is on types of speech acts, namely assertives, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Further, investigation was on the realizations of speech acts and reasons for their occurrences.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

Theoretically the research findings will potentially enrich the theories of discourse analysis especially speech acts in Stand up Comedy. The types, the function and the way performing speech acts are used by the comics to the audiences.

Practically, the findings would be a guidance for those who are interested in the Stand up Comedy especially as entertainment and educational sectors. It is a contributive source for comics by using linguistics aspects of verbal humor.

