

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Study

Stand-up comedy is based on a very old concept that spawned a rather new form of art, starting in the U.S. and slowly spreading to other latitudes. For the last ten years the writer has learned to appreciate stand-up comedy, initially from American comedians but eventually expanding his taste with British, Latin American, Spanish and Swedish comedians as well. Some of the aspects that attracted him the most besides the obvious entertainment value of this comedic genre, is that it has been a valuable tool for learning about and understanding different cultural aspects related to national identity, traditions, values, and language. It is a very powerful form of communication with great informative possibilities, which ironically has not been considered neither in any course nor textbook throughout my years studying media and communication both in Sweden and Costa Rica. Even other types of humour have gotten some attention, while stand-up comedy has been largely overlooked.

Stand-up comedy has gained immense popularity in the twentieth century, and is enjoyed by all generations. Although there are several types of stand-up comedians, from ones who perform sketches or use props, to those who tell stories or use one-liners, the majority of stand-up comedians have one thing in common: They use language to achieve success and make people laugh. Some changes their pitch or tone for comedic effect, others employ different dialects to represent certain stereotypes for humorous effect.

Indeed, stand-up comedians sometimes rely just as much on intentional use and abuse of phonetics, dialects and other parts of language as they do on the material of the jokes, and these aspects might end up being the core of the joke instead. This raised interest in the comic on the subject of Ideation Taxonomic Relation and his uses in stand-up comedy, whilst also quickly making him realize that sociolinguistics likewise play an important part in what the writer is interested in. This is seen by the Ideation Taxonomic Relation effects used by comedians, signifying something that the society at large can agree on being humorous, such as exemplifying a stereotypical ethnicity, or social class. This linguistic and sociolinguistic aspect of stand-up comedy then becomes the writer subject of interest, and the writer asks himself why and how language itself is used for comedic effect?

While exploring the relation between language and humor, the writer wants to work with a specific stand-up comedian. After considering comedians such as Eddie Izzard, Eddie Murphy and Louis C.K., the writer settled on the American comedian Louis C. K. The writer found his use of cultural stereotypes as a source of humor interesting (and funny) and decided that his style of humor would be highly suitable for our investigation. Much of Louis C. K's comedy is based on his ability to imitate accents and dialects and use these to portray characteristics of certain ethnic or cultural groups, such as American, Indian or Irish.

The connection between language and humor, which is the subject of interest in this thesis, will combine with the choice of Louis C. K as source material lead to the following problem definition.

Since language evolved as speech, in the life of the human species, all writing systems are in origin parasitic on spoken language; and since language develops as speech, in the life of every hearing individual, this dependency is constantly being re-enacted. Even with the deaf, whose first language uses the visual channel, this is not writing; Sign is more closely analogous to spoken than to written language (Halliday 2004: 7).

Many people use language to express their thoughts and feeling. Communication exists because of language, that's why human being cannot be separated from language. Language in discourse is primarily a social interactional phenomenon, so discourse analysis studies the language of utterances in relation to its function in social interaction. When people speak or write, they produce text, the term 'text' refers to any instance of language, in any medium, that makes sense to someone who knows the language (cf. Halliday and Hasan, 1976: chapter I in Halliday 2004: 3). Human in society need to interact, to communicate or to show their ideas to the other, speech has a relationship with languages. It is one of the ways to communicate or express one's idea. Every language has some rank scale of phonological constituency is organized (cf. Halliday, 1992: on Mandarin in cf. Halliday 2004: 5).

The researcher uses language to construct houses, to carry on arguments, to convey information from one person to another, to entertain; in short, to communicate. Stand-up Comedy is one of the ways to communicate or express one's ideas, from those definitions, the researcher may conclude that Stand-up Comedy is a part of language because it is a system of voluntary produces by joking to entertain the listeners. Beside that, Stand-up comedy permits all people

to communicate or interact. Language is not only a means of communication, but also a social phenomenon. Stand-up comedy, for some cases, can be a social phenomenon. For example, a Stand-up comedy can motivate somebody or group of people to do or to express something.

One level of language is discourse. Concerning with discourse there are many writers who have defined about discourse. Some of definitions of discourse are: Discourse is category that belongs to and derives from the social domain, and text is a category that belongs to derives from the linguistic domain. The relation between the two is one of realization: Discourse finds its expression in text. However, this is never a straightforward relation; any one text may be the expression or realization of a number of sometimes competing and contradictory discourses” (emphases added) (Kress 1985, in Sinar 2007: 23).

Discourse is a text, sentence, clause and other many kinds of discourse, such as prose, poems, speech, conversation, composition, lyric of song, radio script, film, symbol, text in a book, newspaper, article, magazine and news magazine article (Indriani: 2008). Therefore, written text of speech is a kind of discourse that involves context and text, the analyzed Ideational Taxonomic Relation by using Discourse Analysis Approach of Language. Ideational discourse semantic meanings are organised as two systems, they are Ideation and Conjunction. The ideation system is concerned with lexical relations at the level of discourse; it is broken down into three aspects: Taxonomic Relations, Nuclear Relations and Activity Sequences. Discourse semantic systems of different metafunctions interact with each other to create the texture of discourse.

The process consists of Repetition, Synonym, Contrast : opposition (antonyms and converse) and series (scale and cycles), Class : class and co-class, and the last is Part : whole-part and co-part. In this thesis, the writer will analyze the Louis C. K's stand-up comedy. The taxonomic relations in Louis C. K's stand-up comedy on evolution can be seen in the examples below.

CK : I think evolution is responsible for why everything is the way **it** is.
Some people don't believe in evolution. **Some people** don't believe in **it**.

From the excerpt above, it can be seen that *repetition* happens in the sentence. The *repetition* happens twice, they are: **some people** and **it**. In this case, CK pronounced them to open his stand-up comedy. It purposes to show the topic that will be performed by him. That is about "Evolution".

CK : how did we make it through the **ice** age ... how do you outwit the earth **freezing** over?

From the excerpt above, it shows that **ice** and **freezing** are the example of *synonym* where it is found in the CK's stand-up comedy. The aims of the words are to show the comedian's opinion about evolution. It shows that CK does not satisfy the condition of evolution nowadays.

CK : no human beings to **freeze** to death here Mr. Earth ... but I think that's what got us through the **ice** age ... and we kept each other **warm**... you can get through a **cold** night.

From the excerpt above, there are words **freeze-ice-warm-cold** where the words belong to one of the part of taxonomic relation, that is *antonym: series-scales*. In this situation, CK tried to steal the show in order the audience will catch the point of the comedy and they will feel happy to follow the stand-up comedy.

Louis C. K's stand-up comedy are chosen as the subject of the analysis because the writer is interested in the language find in his stand-up comedy, and the character of Louis C. K as a fighting and funny man, is the main reason for choosing him. This thesis only concerns with one component of the ideation system that is the ideation taxonomic relation. It is study about to analyze the language between lexical elements from clause to clause.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background, in this thesis, there are some problems that will be analyzed, and these problems need to be resolved. The problems are as the following.

1. What taxonomic relations are used in Louis C. K's stand-up comedy?
2. How are the taxonomic relations used in Louis C. K's stand-up comedy?
3. Why are the taxonomic relations used in the way they are?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the analysis of taxonomic relation find in Louis C. K's stand-up comedy about evolution, the objectives of the analysis of this thesis are:

1. to find out the taxonomic relation accrued in Louis C. K's stand-up comedy.
2. to describe the types of taxonomic relation process in Louis C. K's stand-up comedy.
3. to find out the reasons why the taxonomic used describe in the way they are

1.4 Scope of the Study

The analysis is focused on the processes in the systems of ideation on Louis C. K's stand-up comedy which consists of Repetition, Synonym, Contrast: opposition (antonyms and converse) and series (scale and cycles), Class: class and co-class, and the last is Part: whole-part and co-part found in the Louis C. K's stand-up comedy.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Findings of the study are expected theoretically and practically to give much contribution in the world of ideation taxonomic relation on stand-up comedy research.

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study were useful to enrich and develop readers' knowledge of linguistic levels which was used in taxonomic relation on stand-up comedy and also as the source of information and idea for other researchers who wanted to carry out further study on taxonomic relation on stand-up comedy in the other fields.
2. Practically, findings of this study were useful as the guiding information for readers to increase their sensitivity or finding socially appropriate comedy in language use for the situation that they encountered in communication and also as the guidance for the readers that comedy was necessary to enhance the quality relationship with others in different context and situation as it was form of communication.