

CHAPTER 4

Conclusion

Jokes cannot be separated from our life, because they play an important role in any possible circumstances and can be used as a medium of expressing feeling, entertaining, criticizing, and releasing tension. However, understanding jokes is not always easy, especially when it involves second language learners. Basically, the making of verbal humour or jokes involves various kinds of linguistic elements and one of them is semantics. In this study of jokes the writer has tried to make an analysis of American two-liner jokes and the application of the semantics' theories to find out whether those theories can be applied to the jokes to determine the humour. The semantic theories that the writer used are lexical ambiguity, structural ambiguity, and truth conditional semantics.

Based on the analysis of the application of those semantic theories on American two-liner jokes the writer concludes that there is a situation in a joke that is built in order to create misinterpretation or misunderstanding in the reader's mind. The readers may interpret the words, phrases or even the condition in the jokes as what they get in their minds. Then, suddenly they find out that the meaning of the jokes is different from what they think, which create laughter. The writer also finds out that either lexical ambiguity, structural ambiguity, or truth conditional semantics can be applied in jokes in order to create the humour.

The lexical ambiguity holds an important role in the creation of some jokes. The ambiguity of words and phrases has caused humorous effect in-joke. There are three forms of lexical ambiguity in the analysis; polysemy, homonymy,

and homophone. From the total number of the jokes analysed, the application of homonymy is the greatest compared to polysemy and homophone. The structural ambiguity also has an important role in making jokes. The double meanings of a sentence may cause misunderstanding or wrong interpretation. This ambiguity of meaning has allowed the readers of the jokes to have misunderstanding or misinterpretation toward the meaning of the jokes and this condition makes the joke more hilarious.

There are ten applications of truth conditional semantics in American two-liner jokes. The manipulations and violations the truth condition have role in surprising the readers concerning to the first idea that comes up in the readers' minds. Thus, the interpretation of the readers may come up differently in the end of the joke. This interpretation is related to the truth condition of the characters in the joke.

Finally, through this study, the writer concludes that semantics as one of linguistic elements can be applied in jokes. The applications of some semantic theories, including lexical ambiguity, structural ambiguity, or truth conditional semantics were meant to create humorous effect in jokes.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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