

**A PRAGMATIC STUDY ON ENGLISH JOKES
ABOUT MARRIAGE IN INTERNET**

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The objectives of this study are: (1) to describe the intentions of the jokes on marriage in internet, (2) to find the implicatures of the jokes on marriage in internet, and (3) to find the violation on Grice's maxims in humor about marriage in internet. This research is a descriptive qualitative study. The object of this research is English jokes about marriage in internet. The data used are written jokes. The source of this data is taken from <http://www.ahajokes.com>. The writer used documentation method in collecting data. The speakers' intentions found in the data are (1) expressing feeling, (2) informing, (3) alluding, (4) suggesting, (5) insulting, (6) accusing, (7) classifying (8) commanding, (9) requesting, (10) responding, (11) claiming, (12) teasing, (13) asking and (14) concluding.

Key words: Pragmatics, maxim, humor

1. Introduction

Humor is one way of informal communication among people. It is very different from common discourses. Common discourses are made up in a bonafide communication while humor is formed in such non-bonafide communication. The latest kind of communications happens when the speakers intentionally make violation on cooperative principle of communication, namely Grice's maxims.

Humor is also a phenomenon which is influenced by culture. It can be difficult to determine what aspects define a certain sense of humor. How funny somebody finds a certain incident depends on many factors including age, personal experience, level of education and geographical location. Therefore humor is something which is not always transferable in another country. Whether or not someone gets a joke is determined by their interpretation, filtered by the cultural context.

All life aspects can be the topic of joke, one of them is marriage. Marriage is a meeting between man and woman in living together which fill certain requirement. In the other word marriage is one way to maintain culture since long period.

When someone make his mind to get marriage usually he/ she does it because of several motives. Before getting marriage one must recognize that he/ she will live together with person whose background is totally different with him/ her. The presence of suffering instead of happiness, and love besides of aversion in marriage life sometimes arise ambiguity and irony among the marriage people, men and women. This condition is quite possible to cause people to make jokes on it

2. Research Method

This study is a descriptive qualitative one in which the writer just collect the data, analyze and draw conclusion of the data. The research is proposed to identify the type of Grice's maxim that is violated in jokes about marriage based on the qualitative knowledge of the writer about politeness principles. In this research, the writer uses descriptive study by reading and observing the violation on Grice's maxims in the jokes about marriage.

The object of this research is English joke about marriage life in internet which is in form of dialogue and narration.

The data of this study is written jokes text. The sources of this study are jokes about marriage life which obtained in English websites <http://www.ahajokes.com>. The data have been downloaded in February 2011.

The writer uses documentation method for data collection. The writer reads the jokes and downloads the web pages then he selects and sort the data as it is needed.

The writer uses speech act theory to find the intentions of the marriage jokes. While in finding the type of Grice's maxim violation he uses Cooperative Principles Theory. And in finding the implicatures he uses the Theory of Context of speech and implicatures.

The step to analyze the data, the writer presents the data, and then it is followed by the sub-focus of the study (the intention, the implicature, and the Grice's maxim). However the data will be numbered using Arabic number.

3. Data Analysis and Discussion

3.1 Data Analysis

As it has mentioned in the previous chapter, this study is aimed to discover the intention of the jokes of marriage, to find the implicatures of the marriage jokes, and to find the Grice's maxims violation as the strategies to generate readers' sense of humor in the marriage jokes. In generating laugh, a humor text purposely violates cooperative principles and contains a second meaning behind the produced utterance. In this way humor as a kind of communication strategies belongs to non-cooperative communication. Cooperative principles has four pragmatic sub principles, or 'maxim' to obey in order to make communication as cooperative as possible, namely; quantity, quality, relation, and manner.

The second meaning of a humorous text can be reached by inferring any additional conveyed meaning which is the implicature itself.

Followings are the data analysis and discussion on the data:

Datum.1/ **The tradition at weddings**

A little boy, at a wedding looks at his mom and says, "Mommy, why does the girl wear white?"

His mom replies, "The bride is in white because she's happy and this is the happiest day of her life."

The boy thinks about this, and then says, "Well then, why is the boy wearing black?"

Speaker's intention

The underlined utterance above is conveyed by a boy attending a wedding party. The addressee of this utterance is his mother. This utterance appeared after his mother had answered the boy's question of why the bride was in white is because it is her happiest day. The mother by stating this explanation indirectly correlated the happiness with color. The mother said that wearing white dress means being happy. Hearing this illogical reason then he boy asked why the groom was in black. The boy's intention when stating his utterance is to express his objection to his mother of her correlating dress color to happiness.

Implicature

White and black are contrast colors in which each represents different meaning. When one states that white represents happiness, it will be understood that the black has to represent the different idea relating to the happiness. It can be sadness, sorrow, being depressed, mourning, etc. as mentioned in the text above the boy's mother answered her son's first question saying that the bride is wearing white dress because that day was her happiest day. This statement has a paradox view because the groom was putting on black. It means that indirectly the mother states that the day of marriage is not a happy day for the groom for he is in black contrasting to the bride dress.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The mother's answer appears to violate this maxim because it has no relation between happiness to any of color. Her utterance would not be considered to violate the maxim of relation if only she answered that wearing white and black for the couple is a tradition in wedding as the text title is.

Datum.3/ A man is almost about to die

As he lay on his deathbed, the man confided to his wife, "I cannot die without telling you the truth. I cheated on you throughout our whole marriage. All those nights when I told you I was working late, I was with other women. And not just one woman either, but I've slept with dozens of them."

His wife looked at him calmly and said, "Why do you think I gave you the poison?"

Speaker's intention

This utterance is a directive utterance. It is said by a wife in the time of her husband dying responding to the husband's confession. The husband in such this time is telling her wife in order to gain his wife's favor that he had cheated her during their marriage time with dozens of women. The wife answers in a question asking why he does that confession, does he think that she is the one who gave the poison to him.

Though it is a directive sentence in form it is also representative in function. By saying so in such that way the wife's intention is claiming and insisting that she gave the poison to him because she had known that he was cheating on her. When she conveyed

this utterance in a directive form of question, the wife insisted him to belief that she had done poisoning him.

Implicature

This utterance implies that the wife blamed her husband for his cheating. If only he had been honest and behaved good in their marriage she would not give him poison.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The wife's utterance violates the maxim of relation because the utterance is not relevant to the husband confession. Such this utterance is not proper to a wife to convey in the time of her husband dying. But it is purposely done in order to make the text curious and ridiculous to generate the humor of reader

Datum.4/ May I borrow your dog for a few days?

"It's for my mother-in-law," explained the mourner at the funeral procession. Tightening the leash, he gestured down at the dog and said, "My Doberman here killed her."

"Gee...That's terrible," commiserated the spectator. "But... Hmmm... Is there anyway you might lend me your dog for a day or so?"

The bereaved son-in-law pointed his thumb over his shoulder and answered, "Get in line."

Speaker's intention

The son-in-law's utterance "Get in line." is in the form of directive. It has illocution to command the hearer to get in line. It has other function beyond the utterance which is able to show the nature of speaker. By uttering that utterance while doing such code pointing his thumb over his shoulder he wants to show that he agrees about the transaction of lending his dog to spectator. In this case the spectator has intention to use the dog to do the same thing, kill his mother-in-law. More over he wants to show to spectator that he did not regret on his deed killing his mother-in-law while he did it at the funeral procession.

Implicature

The son in law asked the spectator to be in line if he wanted to borrow the dog. A line is a group of people standing one behind the other who are waiting for something. Hence, it implies that the spectator was not the only and the first person who wants to borrow the Doberman dog. There were many people that were going to borrow the dog before him and they had made their selves in line.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The son's utterance strictly is not relevant with the spectator's request of borrowing the Doberman Dog. The answer for the request is whether yes or no to express the acceptance. The son's utterance does not mention his acceptance explicitly in his word but it is implicitly contained in the utterance. Therefore, the son's utterance violates the maxim of relation.

Datum.7/ I have "great" news for you

The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, *"I have great news for you. Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two."*

Her husband ran to her with a smile on his face and delight in his eyes.

He was glowing of happiness and kissing his wife when she said, *"I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us."*

Speaker's intention

The utterance above is produced by a wife to her husband. They are newly married couple. The wife was so happy because of the third coming presence. When the husband listen to what the wife said he became so happy about it. The wife was also glad because the husband was also felt happy with it. Therefore the wife produced this utterance. The wife's intention in this utterance is to assert to the husband about what she meant the third.

Implicature

The implicature of the wife's utterance is that the wife had considered that her husband really like her mother and would be happy if her mother move and stay with them. On the contrary he does not really like her mother, his mother in law.

Grice's maxim Violation

The wife utterance does not meet the husband understanding of the third presence. This utterance does not relevant to the husband presupposition he had in his mind. Therefore, this utterance accordingly violates the maxim of relation.

Datum.9/ Someone really stink

A young couple was on their honeymoon. The husband was sitting in the bathroom on the edge of the bathtub saying to himself, "Now how can I tell my wife that I've got really smelly feet and that my socks absolutely stink? I've managed to keep it from her while we were dating, but she's bound to find out sooner or later that my feet stink. Now how do I tell her?"

Meanwhile, the wife was sitting in the bed saying to herself, "Now how do I tell my husband that I've got really bad breath? I've been very lucky to keep it from him while we were courting, but as soon as he's lived with me for a week, he's bound to find out. Now how do I tell him gently?"

The husband finally plucks up enough courage to tell his wife and so he walks into the bedroom. He walks over to the bed, climbs over to his wife, puts his arm around her neck, moves his face very close to hers and says, "Darling, I've a confession to make."

And she says, "So have I, love."

To which he replies, "Don't tell me, you've eaten my socks."

Speaker's Intention

The husband utterance *"Don't tell me, you've eaten my socks."* is conveyed after he heard his wife made a confession that she has a bad breath smell. Coincidentally the husband also had a problem with the smell of his shock and smelly feet and was going to make confession about it to his wife. The husband's intention when stating his utterance is not only guessing that the wife had eaten his shock. His real intention is asserting that the wife's breath is very smell as smell as his sock.

Implicature

Explicitly, the wife and the husband did not make her confession. Reader can infer that the husband make his confession in his last utterance, while the wife's confession is emerged from the husband's utterance. Therefore, the implicature of the

husband's utterance is that the husband understood what the problem the wife wanted to confess. The wife must not make her own confession about her breath smell.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The husband by saying that the wife had eaten his shock obviously violates the maxim of quality. It is because the problem of bad breath is the problem of internal organ caused by food pattern not by a single cause which is eating a smell shock. The husband's utterance is not true and lack of evidence to make his statement.

Datum.13/ A Very Desperate Marriage

A man really loved a woman, but he was just too shy to propose to her. Now he was up in his years and neither of them had ever been married. Of course, they dated about once a week for the past six years, but he was so timid he just never got around to suggesting marriage much less living together.

But one day, he became determined to ask her the question. So he calls her on the phone, "*June.*"

"*Yes, this is June.*"

"*Will you marry me?*"

"*Of course I will! Who's this?*"

Speaker's intention

The utterance "*Of course I will! Who's this?*" is produced by June in responding to someone who asked her to marry to him. The man really loved June. June does not know who the man is. On the contrary the man is just a kind of shy person to express his feeling. Then he made it on the phone. Therefore, June's intention producing this utterance is to accept the man's offering to marry to him.

Implicature

June utterance while answering the man request whether she would marry him consists of two parts. The first part is her willing to marry to the man and the second part is her utterance which shows her curiosity of the man's personality. These two parts seems to give an irony in her utterance. June's utterance implies that she would accept the offering in condition that she knows the man's personality.

Grice's Maxim Violation

June's utterance accepting the marriage offering regarded to violate the maxim of manner. It urges each of couple to know the personality of her/ his prospective couple. And it requires a serious talk in a face to face meeting to talk about marriage proposal.

Datum.15/ What will the neighbors think?

Jack was living in Arizona during a heat wave when the following took place.

"It's just too hot to wear clothes today," complained Jack as he stepped out of the shower. *"Honey, what do you think the neighbors would think if I mowed the lawn like this?"*

"Probably that I married you for your money."

Speaker's intention

The underlined sentence above is conveyed by Jack to his wife. The conversation happened in his house in Arizona during a heat wave. Jack asked her wife about what their neighbor should think if he mowed the lawn just as he want. Instantly jack answered his question by himself that people would think that he marry her for her money. Jack's intention is not really to ask his wife idea about mowing the lawn but to allude her to be not stingy to pay someone to be a gardener in order to take care of the lawn or at least she has a willing to cut them by herself.

Implicature

If it is true that the couple is such a rich one, when reading the Jack's utterance the readers will infer that the wife is a stingy person since she does not pay someone as the gardener to cut the grass around the home and let her husband do this. Unless, if they are not a kind of rich couple Jack's Utterance can be inferred that Jack indirectly stated that his wife is a kind of lazy woman.

Grice's Maxim Violation

In the text above, Jack is who firstly preceded the conversation by asking his wife about her opinion on their neighbor thinking if they see him cutting the lawn. After a view second jack answered his question by himself and did not let his wife to speak up. However, it was jack who gave a question (addressor) and it was his wife

who had to give a response toward her husband's question. But Jack made himself as the addressor and addressee. Therefore Jack utterance violates the maxim of manner.

Datum.17/ The government cuts costs

The following conversation took place one morning between a wife and her husband. They were discussing government cost cuts that they recently heard about in the paper.

"Steve," his wife said, while reading the newspaper, "it looks like our government is going to cut overhead and trim down the military forces. They are going to eliminate six overaged destroyers."

To which the husband replies, "*Sorry to hear that, dear. I'm sure you'll miss your mother being gone.*"

Speaker's intention

The utterance "*Sorry to hear that, dear. I'm sure you'll miss your mother being gone.*" is produced by the husband in a form of representative in order to respond to his wife when she read news about elimination of six overaged destroyers by the government. The husband when saying so did not really expressing his sympathy to her wife. His truly intention is to classify the mother in law as one of those six overaged destroyers.

Implicature

This sentence is conveyed as the husband's response to his wife reading the news that the government was going to eliminate seven overaged destroyers which are military equipments. The husband's statement implies that the husband consider his mother in law is the same as the seven overaged military force. It also implies that the husband does not really like his mother in law.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The husband's utterance above make a violation on the maxim of relation since the topic of his utterance is not relevant to the wife's topic. The wife formerly told him about old military equipment but the husband's topic is the old dangerous mother in law.

Datum.18/ This wife is too jealous

There was once a wife so jealous that when her husband came home one night and she couldn't find hairs on his jackets she yelled at him, "Great, so now you're cheating on me with a bald woman!"

The next night, when she didn't smell any perfume, she yelled again by saying, "She's not only bald, but she's too cheap to buy any perfume!"

Speaker's intention

This utterance is produced by an easy jealous wife. It belongs to representative speech act because she states what she belief to be a fact. By saying her utterance the wife (speaker) intention is to accuse the husband of cheating her with another woman.

Implicature

This utterance is produced by the jealousy wife. This utterance is preceded by an accusation on the husband that he had been cheating her with a poor woman whereas no evidence strengthen her argument. Therefore it can be inferred from the text above that the jealous wife (speaker) would always suspect her husband does cheating on her every time.

Grice's Maxim Violation

By saying her weak accusation she violates the maxim of quality. Since her utterances are conveyed with no evidence supporting her belief.

Datum.24/ Going to the office

Hubby - *You always carry my photo in your handbag to the office. Why?*

Wife - *When there is a problem, no matter how impossible, I look at your picture and the problem disappears.*

Hubby - *You see, how miraculous and powerful I am for you?*

Wife - *Yes, I see your picture and say to myself, "What other problem can there be greater than this one?"*

Speaker's intention

The utterance *Yes, I see your picture and say to myself, "What other problem can there be greater than this one?"* is produced by the wife in order to give reply to

her husband who being proud of himself. The husband was proud because his personality is very meaningful for the wife in facing her problem. But this utterance is negatively intended. The real wife's intention is to insult the husband for his presence as her biggest problem and no other is greater than him.

Implicature

Generally speaking, problem is a situation, person or thing that needs attention and needs to be dealt with or solved (Cambridge Advance Dictionary: 2008). One must look for a solution to solve the problem. Obviously in her utterance, the wife uses her husband as a problem solver besides he is the greatest problem for her. So to speak she solves problems with a problem. It denote that she would not solve this greatest problem even maintain and let it to be.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The wife underlined utterance shows her confession of her husband miracle and powerfulness that make her husband being proud. The term of miracle and powerfulness refer to the ability and dignity in a positive meaning. Otherwise the wife has her own assumption differ to the husband. The wife supposed that her husband is her bane that omits other problem. Therefore the wife's utterance is not relevant toward the husband utterance and assumption.

Datum.25/ Finding perfect men

At a local coffee bar, a young woman was expounding on her idea of the perfect mate to some of her friends.

"The man I marry must be a shining light amongst company. He must be musical. Tell jokes. Sing. And stay home at night!"

An old granny overheard and spoke up, *"Honey, if that's all you want, get a TV!"*

Speaker's intention

The underlined sentence which is spoken by an old granny *"Honey, if that's all you want, get a TV!"* is in the form of directive. It is intended to suggest the young woman to get a TV to clutch her wish. But behind the meaning of that suggestion is

actually a teasing for the young woman. The old granny would like to tell her that there is no man in the real world as she wished to get.

Implicature

Suppose that the old granny's statement is true, it logically would mean that she has had a bad experience in her life, it can be her own experience or another's that she knows, with man that does not appropriate to those characteristics. But, to generate that belief on all men is not wise.

Grice's Maxim Violation

The young woman obviously stuck those characters to someone that she wants to marry. But obviously the old granny replied that those characters are only suitable for TV. In this point the old granny's utterance violate the maxim of relation because it does not show its relevance to the text and context of utterance.

Datum. 28/ Getting into fights

They were married, but since the argument they had a few days earlier, they hadn't been talking to each other.

Instead, they were giving each other written notes.

One evening he gave her a paper where it said:

"Wake me up tomorrow morning at 6 am."

The next morning he woke up and saw that it was 9 o'clock.

Naturally he got very angry, but as he turned around he found a note on his pillow saying:

"Wake up, it's 6 o'clock!"

Speaker Intention

The humor point on the text above is the utterance **"Wake up, it's 6 o'clock!"** this utterance is produced by the wife in the form of written and was addressed to her husband. Both were in fight and had no word to each other only giving notes. It was begun with the husband who writes a note asking her to wake him up at six o'clock. Then the wife made up her utterance above. It is strictly known from the wife's sentence that her intention when she made her note is to respond to the husband's

request of being woke up at the time he mentioned. But, however, it was not as the husband meant.

Implicature

Waking up somebody needs effort especially to some people with sleeping problem. It has to use any means necessary in doing it. At least the sleeping person listens to the sound of whom waking him up. But, relating to the context of the text above, the wife seemed to do nothing in order to make her husband awake. Even her way doing waking up her husband through a note took no effect. But it may not motiveless since the husband asked her to something in fighting condition through a note she would respond it through a not too. As the result when he asked her to wake him up through a written form she wakes him up through written note too. And consequently he got over sleep and woke up at nine.

To mention the time of nine (9) o'clock as the time he woke up was not motiveless. The text purposely gives additional reason to reader to make laugh. Because the representative shape of number nine is opposite to the representative shape of number six (6). It can be a ridiculous if the time of six o'clock he wanted to be waked up turned to be nine o'clock and he find a note intended to wake him up.

Grice's Maxim Violation

This text would not be funny if only the wife waked him up in a proper way. This text violates the Grice's maxim of manner because the husband asked his wife to wake him up by any means necessary but the wife did it through a note that no one would be awake with it, the wife response does not meet the husband's mean.

3.2 Discussion of the Finding

3.2.1 Speakers' intentions

There are fourteen intentions that the writer finds, some appear three times such as (1) to command which appears in the data number 4, 14, and 20, (2) to inform which appears in the data number 7, 21, 23 and (3) to express which appear in the data number 1, 10, and 26. And two intentions appear twice namely (4) to ask which appears in the data number 13 and 16 and (5) to request as shown in the data number 6 and 8. The rest intentions appear once, they are (6) to allude in the data 15, (7) to

claim in the data number 3, (8) to conclude in the data number 9, (9) to insult in the data number 24, (10) to suggest in the data number 19, (11) to tease in the data number 25, (12) to accuse in the data number 18, (13) to classify in the data number 17, and the last (14) to respond in the data number 28.

3.2.2 Implicature

The writer finds that there are two types of implicature in the data, they are conversational implicature and scalar implicature, the conventional implicature never appear in the data. The most appear implicature is conversational implicature. It is because the writer sorts the data to analyze in the form of conversations which are bound with certain context of situation. The scalar implicature is only applied in two (2) of twenty two (22) data they are the datum number 19 r and datum number 28.

3.2.3 The Grice's Maxim

According to the data analyzed, the violation on the relation maxim appears dominantly. It occurs ten (10) times which is in the data number 1, 3, 4, 7, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24, and 25. The maxim of relation is violated by making the speaker's utterance irrelevant to the topic of speaking. The most rarely occurs is the violation on Quantity Maxim. It appears in three (3) data which are the data number 9, 10, and 19. Quantity maxim is violated by giving less or more information than needed.

Violation on the Maxim of Manner rises in humor text if the speaker let his/her utterance ambiguous. This violation occurs four (4) times which is in the data number 8, 13, 15, and 28. And quality maxim violation occurs when the speaker lacks evidence and gives untrue information to the hearer. This maxim violation can be found five (5) times in the data, they are the data number 14, 18, 20, 23, and 26.

4 Conclusion

Akin to what Raskin stated, the key factor employed in the humor text about marriage in the www.ahajokes.com to generate the readers' laughter is the on purpose or intentional violation of Grice's maxims. They are four Grice's maxim violated in the data: they are (1) Quality Maxim, (2) Quantity Maxim, (3) Manner Maxim, and (4) Relation Maxim. While the intention found are The speakers' intentions found in the data are (1) expressing feeling, (2) informing, (3) alluding, (4) suggesting, (5)

insulting, (6) accusing, (7) classifying (8) commanding, (9) requesting, (10) responding, (11) claiming, (12) teasing, (13) asking (14) concluding.

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