

FLOUTING MAXIM OF RELEVANCE IN SITUATIONAL COMEDY *MALAM MINGGU MIKO 2*

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Abstract

This research focuses on flouting relevance maxim uttered by the characters in the situational comedy of Malam Minggu Miko 2. The problems of the research are: (1) What floutings forms of relevance maxim are undergone by the characters in situational comedy Malam Minggu Miko 2? (2) What are the reasons of the characters flouting the maxims of relevance? The purposes of this research are: (1) To identify forms of flouting relevance maxims undergone by characters in situational comedy of Malam Minggu Miko 2 (2) To describe the reasons of the characters flouting the maxims of relevance. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. This research used theory of Grice (1975). Results obtained from this research show that there are fourty data that represents of flouting maxim relevance. The data divided into two forms of flouting maxim of relevance, they are to change the subject (8) and give an irrelevant statement (32) and for the reason, there are nine type of the reasons of the characters flouting the maxims of relevance there are ten data of hiding the truth (25%), two data of saving face (5%), two data of feeling jealous about something (5%), two data of convincing the hearer (5%), two data of cheering the hearer (5%), seven data of mocking someone (17%), four data of teasing the hearer (10%), five data of lacking of knowledge (13%) and six data of to showing itself (15%). The reasons that are often used in this sitcom is hiding the truth.

Keywords: *flouting maxims, hiding the truth, situational comedy*

INTRODUCTION

In daily life, language is a tool of human beings to communicate. Without language, people will never be able to communicate one another. People need language to communicate, to interact, and to get information from others. The success of the communication depends on the relevance between the speaker and listener. They should apply the principles of cooperation between speaker and listener. This rule must be done to make the conversation between them go well. The principle of cooperation is part of pragmatics. Levinson (1983, p.5) defines pragmatics is the study of language use, that is the study of relevance

between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding which involves the making of inferences which will connect what is said to what is mutually assumed or what has been said before. To understand communication, context is very important because the speaker and listener must know the context in which the conversation takes place. Cook (1989, p.10) defines that the context is the unity of discourse with considering the word at large, and it is the influenced by the situation when we receive the message, cultural and social relevanceship within the participant, what we know and assume the sender knows.

To learn and understand language will make people understand the meaning of someone's conversation. Actually, language has implicit (contextual) and explicit meaning. Talking about implicit meaning, there are four principles of maxim. Those are quality, quantity, relevance and manner. The four principles of maxim must be fulfilled to make an ideal conversation. If the speakers do not fulfill the certain maxim, they will flout maxim principles. The phenomenon of flouting maxim can be occurs in the real life, movie, talk show and also in situational comedy (*sit-com*).

In Indonesia, sitcoms are very popular for many people, sitcom uses comedy genre in order to entertain the viewers. Comedy in film or sitcom is shown in dialogue or in behavior. Sitcom has a series of weekly shows based on a primary idea of humorous situation and characters. Since the first, sitcoms have been favored by Indonesians for example of very popular sitcom in its time there are, *Bajaj Bajuri*, *Suami-suami Takut Istri* and *Tetangga Masa Gitu*. As time goes by, there are many young creators who pack comedy in other forms to draw attention the audience with something "new", for example Raditya Dika, a young man who writes scripts, actor and becomes a director in a sitcom *Malam Minggu Miko 2*.

Malam Minggu Miko 2 is a very interesting thing among teenagers to adults, because the problem in sitcoms is a problem that often occurs in this era that is young

singles who want to have a girlfriend but always fail or in nowadays popular as "sad boy". Thus the researcher interested in analyzing sitcom "Malam Minggu Miko 2" because the sitcom is very intriguing a lot of people and containing flouting of maxim. Cutting (2002) emphasizes that Grice stated when the speaker does not obey the maxims, the speaker flouts the maxim. As we know that there are four maxims; Quantity, Quality, manner, and Relevance but in this reserach the researcher limit the scope of the research, only analyzed one of flouting maxim, that is flouting of relevance maxim.

The main theory used in this research is the theory proposed by Grice (1975) about the cooperative principle which works on flouting maxims of quality, quantity, manner, and relevance. Because this research used the data of situational comedy, which is the genre used a comedy, thus in connecting flouting maxims and humor, the researcher also use the supporting theory proposed by Weiwei (2012) in which he correlates what's makes a humor, when there is a flouted maxim. In this study, to classify the reasons contained in the utterances of characters that flout the maxims, the researcher uses the theory of Christoffersen (in Tupan and Natalia 2008). It says that in real life situation, people tend to tell lies for different reasons. The following reasons will be used in the analysis to interpret the data. They are: hiding the truth, saving face, feeling jealous about something, satisfying the hearer, cheering the hearer,

avoiding to hurt the hearer, building one's belief, convincing the hearer.

METHODS

In this research, the researcher chooses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the utterance of the characters in sitcom of *Malam Minggu Miko 2*. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009) proposed that descriptive research describes the attitudes and behaviors that observed during the observation. The researcher used all episode of sitcom *Malam Minggu Miko 2*. In conducting the research, the researcher collects the data by doing these several techniques chronologically as follow: 1). watching per episodes sitcom of *Malam Minggu Miko 2*; 2). note-taking the dialogues of the characters; 3). writing all of the dialogues that show flouting maxim of relevance; 4). typing the english subtitle of the characters. The techniques that researcher uses in this research for analyzing the data are as follow: 1). identifying every dialogue which show the flouting maxim of relevance based on the theory; 2). listing the utterances, which contain flouting maxims of relevance; 3), identifying the reasons of the speakers for flouting the Cooperative Principle maxims from the contexts of dialogues; 4). analyzing flouting the maxims can prove humor; 5). making the conclusion from the results of the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forms of flouting relevance maxim that occurs in sitcom *Malam Minggu Miko 2*

Flouting maxim relevance change the subject

In flouting maxim of relevance, there is a form of flouting maxim of relevance by changing the topic of conversation, examples of which we can see from the dialogues below:

- (1) Atiek : *Eh mas Anca, tau gak hari ini hari apa?* (Anca, do you know what day it is today?)
Anca : ***Gimana kalo sekarang kita pulang aja?*** (Let's just go home now)

In this context, Anca flouts the maxim of relevance when he answered the question from Atiek, actually it was the code implied by Atiek about his birthday, because Anca already knew it and want to give surprise for her, Anca changed the subject so that his plan was successful.

- Dovi : *Baju warna putih kesayangan gua mana ya?* (Where's my favorite white shirt?)
Anca : *Hah? Baju?* (Huh? Shirt?)
Dovi : *Iya baju putih yang sering gue pake.* (Yeah, the white shirt I always wear.)
Anca : ***Aduh saya sakit perut*** (I have a stomachache)

From conversation above, Anca flouts the maxim of relevance when he answers Dovi's questions about Dovi's clothes. Anca can't tell where his clothes are, so he tries to change the subject by saying that he suddenly has a stomachache.

Flouting Relevance Maxim Irrelevant statement

Not only changing the topic, but giving an irrelevant statement is also a form of flouting maxim of relevance which exists in this research. We can see from the dialogues below:

- (1) Riri : *Thanks ya Dov, malem minggu udah mau kesini*
(Thanks Dov, this Saturday night, you want to visit me)
- Dovi : *Santai aja, namanya juga naksir*
(Its okay, because I like you)
- Riri : *Bisa aja lo, gue gampang juga lo*
(Haha, I wanna hit you)

Riri flouts the maxim of relevance because when she responds to Dovi, the sentence " *Bisa aja lo, gue gampang juga lo* " is an irrelevant answer to respond to Dovi if in the context she likes Dovi too.

- (2) Miko : *Mika, kenal in Dovi*

(Mika, Its Dovi)
Dovi : *Iya mirip, turut berduka cita ya*
(Yes you look a like, I'm so sorry)

At the conversation above, Dovi's response to the Miko statement is a form of flouting maxim of relevance in the form of an irrelevant statement. That is, the words " *turut berduka cita ya* " that Dovi said should be addressed to the person who is grieving.

Reasons of flouting relevance maxim

In this research, the researcher finds the reasons of flouting relevance maxim showed by characters in this sitcom, the researcher used theory from Christofferson (in Tupan Natalia, 008).

Hiding the truth

Dovi : *Mas anca.*
(Anca.)

Anca : *iya mas?*
(yes?)

Dovi : *Baju warna putih kesayangan gua mana ya?*
(Where's my favorite white shirt?)

Anca : *Hah? Baju?*
(Huh? Shirt?)

Dovi : *Iya baju putih yang sering gue pake.*
(Yeah, the white shirt I always wear.)

Anca : *Aduh saya sakit perut*
(I have a stomachache)

In the episode “Ratu Drama Fitri”, Dovi saw a video of tips and tricks to move on. One way was to throw away a favorite item from an ex, and Dovi thought that item was the clothes his ex-gave him. Meanwhile Anca was washing the clothes but unfortunately the Dovi's favorite clothes faded, Anca was very scared because the faded clothes were Dovi's favorite clothes, then when Dovi asked Anca about his clothes, Anca tried to change the subject.

In conversation above Anca doesn't know the reason why Dovi asks his clothes, even though the reason that Dovi is looking for the shirt is because he wants to throw it away. Because Anca did not know the reason for Dovi, Anca was so scared. So, he flouted the maxim relevance that was answering Dovi's question by changing the subject. The reason that Anca flouted the maxim relevance was because Anca wanted to hide his mistake that he had worn off Dovi's favorite clothes.

Saving Face

In episode “Perempuan Jagoan Riri” Jasmin flouts maxim relevance by reason of saving face.

Miko : *Jasmine, kamu kenapa? Oh laper ya belum makan kan?*
(Jasmine, are you okay? Oh I see, You're hungry right?)

Jasmin : ***Kamu fitnah aku Miko?!
Aku gasuka sama pohon itu***
(**Are you suspecting me, Miko?! I don't like that tree**)

In conversation above Jasmin flouts maxim of relevance because she answers an irrelevant statement, it's because Jasmin is a Miko's crush who is on a diet, since she is on a diet, he becomes very sensitive and easy to mad, so when something offends her, she will get angry easily. She says that she hates trees because she is on a saving her face so, Miko doesn't think she has a stomachache due to hunger.

Feeling Jealous About Something

The example of flouting maxim of relevance in the reason feeling jealous about something occurs in episode “Ratu Drama Fitri”

Miko : *Ini yang ikut kok cuma sedikit?*
(Only these people are joining?)
Fitri : ***Ya biarin, biar dikit juga jelek***
(**Who cares? They're ugly anyway**)

Conversation above in the scene of episode “Ratu Drama Fitri”. Fitri is a crush on Miko. She is very drama queen. Fitri invited Miko to go to the gym, and when they arrived at the gym there were very

few people there, it makes Miko confused why there are so few people who came to the gym, but Fitri was overthinking, she thought that Miko asked that to see another woman, so Fitri's answer was very irrelevant to Miko's question. It was because she felt jealous of Miko.

Convincing the hearer

The phenomenon of flouting maxim of relevance with reason to convince the hearer occurs in the episode "Insomnia Helen". It happened in the dialogue below:

- Dovi : *Kita kapan belajarnya mbak?*
(When are we gonna start studying?)
- Helen : *nanti dulu dong kita harus mengumpulkan mood kita dulu. Kita biarkan waktu berlalu*
(Wait for a while we need to get in the mood first. Just let the time pass)
- Dovi : *ini kapan mulai ya? Tar bayarnya mahal*
(Uhm. When are we starting? The fee would be expensive)
- Helen : *gapapa kan*
(It's nothing right)

This dialogue is categorized as flouting maxim of relevance because it contains irrelevant utterance from Helen's answer. She flouts this

maxim by her answer that does not have any relevance with Dovi's question. she should reply the time when will she start teaching. But in this dialogue, she answers it by saying "gapapa kan" which means it is irrelevant answer. Helen is a tutor who will teach Dovi about civil law courses, but when Helen taught him, Helen did with a very long method, while the payment she offered was calculated hourly and according to Dovi if Helen used long method in teaching, he was afraid the cost would be expensive. The reason she said that it is because she wanted to convince Dovi about the payment, and convince Dovi to make him believe that the longer he learns he will be smart.

Cheering the hearer

The phenomenon of flouting maxim of relevance with reason to Cheering the hearer occurred in the episode "Tetangga Baru Karin", it happens in the dialogue below:

- Karin : *Silahkan diminum kopi nya*
(Go ahead, drink the coffee)
- Dovi : *Ih Karin cangkirnya unyu banget sih*
(Aww Karin, the cup is so cute)

This dialogue is categorized as

flouting maxim of relevance because Dovi answer with changing the subject, Dovi said that because he wanted to cheering the hearer, because Karin had just become a new neighbor, so Dovi wanted to be friendly to his new neighbor.

Mocking someone

The phenomena of flouting maxim of relevance with the reason to mocking someone can be seen in the following dialogue:

Miko : *Mika, kenalin ini Dovi*
(Mika, Its Dovi)
Dovi : *Iya mirip, turut berduka cita ya*
(Yes you look alike, I'm so sorry)

The dialogue above showed that Dovi flouted maxim of relevance because his answer is irrelevant statement, the dialogue is in the episode “*Kembaran Mika*”. Mika is Miko's new friend. they have a lot in common, namely similar names, they both have cats, and they also have silly cousins and innocent helpers. Then Miko is invited to visit Mika's house, Miko invites Dovi and Anca because he is very happy that someone is very similar to her. Based on the context above, Dovi flouts the maxim of relevance because his answer is irrelevant. At that time Miko introduced Mika to Dovi, if we were looking it from the viewpoint of

pragmatics, Dovi was flouting maxim of relevance by giving irrelevant answer. He must reply it with the answer “nice to meet you Mika” because based on the dialogue Miko is introducing Dovi to his new friend. So, Dovi is categorized as flouting maxim of relevance. The reason Dovi said “*turut berduka cita ya*” was, Dovi was mocking Miko, that it would be bad luck for that person to have the same thing as Miko.

Teasing the hearer

In the episode “*Presenter malam Sissy*”, Dovi and Anca are watching their favorite quiz show because the show is hosted by a beautiful and sexy girl named Sisy. Dovi tried to take the quiz. luckily, Dovi got a call from the host

Dovi : *Halo?*
(Hello?)
Sisy : *Halo mas ganteng yang disana, siapa namanya?*
(Hey there, gorgeous, what's your name?)
Dovi : *Dovi, ini beneran masuk TV suaranya?*
(Dovi, Is my voice really on TV?)
Sisy : *iya beneran dong, mas Dovi mau menangin apa nih? mobil, motor, atau yang lainnya?*
(Ofcourse, what do you want to win? A car? A motorbike? Anything else?)

Dovi : *menangin hati kamu*
(I want to win... your heart!)

In the conversation above Dovi flouts the maxim of relevance because he answers something out of context, the relevance answer should be the prize provided in the show. the reason Dovi answers “*menangin hati kamu*” is because he tried to flirt sisy. Dovi tease her because he liked her so much.

Lacking of knowledge

The phenomenon of flouting maxim of relevance with the reason of lacking of knowledge occurs in the dialogue below

Anca : *Apa itu mas?*
(What’s that)
Dovi : *Temen gue bego banget ca, ngirimin sushi dari Jepang*
(My friend is a fool, He sent me sushi directly from Japan)
Anca : *Sushi? Tadi saya baru ketemu di pasar. Anaknya pak Tarno kan?*
(Sushi? I just met her at the market. Mr. Tarno’s daughter, right?)

This dialogue is categorized as flouting maxim of relevance because it contained irrelevant utterance from Anca’s answer. He flouted this maxim by his answer that does not

have any relevance with Dovi statements. In this context, Dovi was talking about his friend who gave him Japanese food, that is sushi, but he answers it by changing the topic. He does not know that sushi is a food name. He thought sushi is the name of a woman he knows. The reason he flouts this maxim because Anca's lacking of knowledge about foreign food.

Showing itself

The way flouting maxim of relevance for reason feeling jealous about something occurs in the conversation below:

Dovi : *Mik pinjem kunci mobil lu dong gua mau ketemu Sissy*
(Mik, can I borrow your car? I’m meeting up with Sissy)
Miko : *Sissy? Yang di TV itu?*
(Sissy? The one on TV?)
Dovi : *Iya*
(Yes)
Miko : *Kok bisa?*
(How come?)
Dovi : **Dovi.**

The dialogue is in the episode “*Presenter malam sissy*”. The dialogue above show that Dovi flouts maxim of relevance because his answer is irrelevant statment. In this context Miko asked how Dovi could

win the quiz and met the presenter Sissy. He should reply how could he win the quiz or he should say it was his luck. But in this dialogue, he answers it by saying “*Dovi*” which means it is irrelevant answer. The reason behind his answer is to show himself that he was so cool to win the quiz.

CONCLUSION

There are forty data that represents of flouting maxim of relevance in the utterances of the characters in this sitcom. The flouting maxim of relevance was divided into two forms, they are maxim relevance of changing the subject and irrelevant statement. The reason of flouting maxim is found nine categories. They are hiding the truth (10), saving face (2) feeling jealous about something (2), convincing the hearer (2), cheering the hearer (2). The researcher finds new reasons why the characters are flouting the maxim. There are, mocking someone (7), teasing the hearer (4), lacking of knowledge (5), and to showing itself (6). The reason that was often used in this sitcom is hiding the truth.

From those flouting relevance

maxims in the sitcom "*Malam Minggu Miko 2*", it is proven that an irrelevant statement can create humor atmospheres and can be the reason why the characters is flouting maxim.

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