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Joke Strategies In American Situational Comedy “How I Met Your Mother”

Awliya Rahmi

Universitas Islam Negeri Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin, Jambi, Indonesia

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CORRESPONDENT

E-mail: awliyahrahmi@gmail.com

A B S T R A C T

The research discusse joke strategies in American situational comedy How I Met You Mother (HIMYM). The purpose of this research is to identify; (1) the joke strategies in situational comedy HIMYM (2) The pragmatic meaning of jokes that are expressed by the characters in HIMYM AND (3) Pragmatic prank functions that are expressed by the characters in HIMYM. This research is categorized as descriptive linguistic research. Observation method applied in data collection, while the method of distribution and matching applied in analyzing data. The results of this research data analysis is presented using informal and formal methods. From the results of data analysis found 14 strategy joke uttered by characters in a situational comedy American HIMYM, namely: ambiguity, grammar, syllabics, idiomatics, questionable English, antonymics, style, negativism, lexicography, spelling, punctuation, Rhyming English, numerical English And part of speech. The dominant strategy used is ambiguity because there are many words in English that mean more than one and are likely to lead the listener to multiple interpretations. The jokes uttered by the characters in situational comedy HIMYM have assertive, expressive and directive meanings. Moreover, the joke also serves to show the power, solidarity and psychological defense of the speaker.

I. INTRODUCTION

Jocular register must have its characteristics and differences from other forms of language. Joke is simply described as the specific type of humorous text (Attardo,2000:61). It apparently seems to have no difference from other forms of language but what makes it different is that it is able to build some comic effects such as laughter, smile, happiness and release. It cannot be denied that those effects are possibly created by non-lingual aspects such as expression and gesture but it is also important to bear in mind

that language and its elements are so powerful that they can amuse and release the listeners.

Joke seems to be a favorite form of language. It is delighted not only to be uttered but also to be heard by people. It is also affected by the natural factor of human as language user which has sense of humor, pleasure, anger and other kinds of feeling (Oktavianus and Revita:2012). What possibly makes a joke liked by hearers is its funniness along with the surprising effect which is expected to appear at the end of the

joke. It is the one which is short and conveys light idea to appear in conversation or documentary. A successful joke will end with surprise and laughter of the hearers. Meanwhile, the flat or failed joke will get none of those results. It seemingly proves that joke is a form of humorous language which needs a deep thought to construct. Fry (in Raskin:1944) mentioned that a joke may be defined as an item of humor reduced to a single point or particle. This definition is then supported by Raskin (1944:28) who stated that joke is a self-contained humorous thought. It can be generalized that joke conveys thought and funniness constructed in single or multiple sentences.

Just like other forms of language used by speakers, there are also various purposes of people making a joke. In general, joke is made to amuse the hearers and invite their laughter. Other than that, joke can also be intended to mock certain people. The former purpose must be able to invite laughter of the hearer while the latter might end up with two possibilities. When a joke is directed to some hearers on the purpose of mocking one of them, it must be annoying for the object of the mockery but it is possibly amusing for the rest of the hearers. What the writer wants to say is that people are different in responding the joke they hear. This is of course affected by some factors. The factors influencing some people find a joke funny or unfunny will be explained deeply later in this thesis but the condition that every joke has to deal with is that people tend to find things funny differently. The idea about various responses to humor was acknowledged by Raskin that some people are characterized as having the sense of humor while others lack it (1944:2). General factors such as social and cultural background must have role in generating the sense of humor. This is why, in some occasion a joke is funny for a group of people and it is not for other groups.

Since joking is a part of human daily communication, it can be found in any form of language and in any media of communication. Joke can be found in the conversation between

women and men or between teacher and students. It can be read in magazines, newspapers, advertisements and posters. Even in England, joke is printed in a chocolate wrap and called penguin joke. Because of the development of technology, joke is now can be also seen and heard at once in the form of movie, television series, commercial break, and situational comedy. One form of media that the writer bears in mind to be an interesting form to find jokes is situational comedy.

There are actually many researchers have done the researches about joke and humor from various perspective. It obviously proves that any kind of humor, whether it is joke, wit, wisecrack or anecdotes are interesting to explore. This research is too, derives from the writer's interest in lingual phenomenon hidden behind the laughter in one of famous American situational comedies, *How I Met Your Mother* (HIMYM).

The term situational comedy or better known as sit-com describes a short narrative series comedy, generally between twenty four and thirty minutes long, with regular characters and setting (Kutnik and Neale:1990). Besides its short and frequent broadcasting, situational comedy is also prototyped by its narration and the stable situation. *How I Met Your Mother* is an American romantic comedy which is very famous and has billions fans around the world. It is proven by the total numbers of season and episode it has until the finale which successfully reached 9 seasons and 208 episodes. The first episode of HIMYM was aired on September 19th 2005 and its last episode was officially aired on March 31st 2014. It can be assumed that this situational comedy has something different that makes it lasted for nine years.

Regardless many famous actors and actresses casted in HIMYM, which possibly becomes one of attractive factors in this situational comedy, the writer expects to focus on the verbal humor that the characters tell. Verbal humor in this research is defined as any text which is capable of creating a humorous effect

or in another term is the joke-carrying text (Raskin: 1985). In perspective of linguistic, however, linguistic features must be the main focus of the any field of linguistic research. When the researcher did a little pre-research observation by watching the series of HIMYM, she found both single joke and multiple jokes uttered by the characters which are legitimately unique to be observed.

In this study, the researcher recognizes it is necessary to find the humorous aspects conveyed in that multiple jokes in any perspectives of linguistic such as phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic aspect. Since HIMYM is a situational comedy which the script had been thought, arranged and discussed to accomplish laughter from the watchers, it is assumed that the sentence construction of the script invest the funniness to the show.

When one single sentence or multiple sentences are constructed on purpose to create funniness, it can be said that there is a certain strategy applied. It must be noted that there are some strategies of joke that makes one type of joke is different from others but they still convey humor inside the text.

Realizing that all linguistic aspects are necessary to generate the humorous aspect of a text, the researcher is triggered to conduct a research titled 'Joke Strategies in American Situational Comedy How I Met Your Mother'. Needless to say, this research is expected to be able to seek any linguistic features related to joke and considerably different from any other humor research from other field of science.

II. METHODS

Referring to the definition of qualitative research by Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2007:4) which defines it as a research procedure which produces descriptive written or spoken data from the observable society and behaviour, this research is considered as one. In addition, qualitative is regarded as the right approach since the main purpose of this research is to seek the language phenomena,

especially English humor, as the part of society behaviour.

In this research, the data are divided into two types; primary data and secondary ones. Primary data are all the jocular or humorous utterances produced directly by the characters in How I Met Your Mother. Meanwhile, the secondary data are the jocular or humorous utterances of the characters in How I Met Your Mother which are already transcribed into subtitle. Both primary and secondary data are taken from all seasons of the situational comedy series from its beginning until its finale episode. Totally, there are 9 seasons and 208 episodes of How I Met Your Mother.

Generally, the method of collecting data in this library research is observational method and note taking technique. It is a method of collecting the data where the researcher observes and taps the language phenomena (Sudaryanto, 1988:2). Data are then analyzed by applying two methods of analyzing data; identity method and distributional method. As how a result of descriptive research should be presented, the result of this research will be disposed both formally and informally.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data, it is found that among 24 joke strategies proposed by Esar (1961), only 14 strategies appear in the conversation between the characters in HIMYM. The strategies are ambiguity, grammar, syllabics, idiomatic, questionable English, antonymics, style, negativism, lexicography, spelling, punctuation, rhyming English, numerical English and part of speech. It is important to restate that all the data are analyzed following Evan Esar's linguistic strategy of joke.

a. Grammar

Data 1

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Ted | : Hey, don't you have a paper to write tonight? |
| Marshall | : Dude, you're talking to the kid. |
| Ted | : I know it. |
| Marshall | : I'm gonna knock back this beer.
I'm gonna knock back one more |

beer. I'm gonna go home. I'm gonna write a 25 page paper. I'm gonna hand it in and I'm gonna get an "A". My name is and that's the trufus. (Evrybody at the table laughed and tossed the beer)

Dialogue above happened in a bar between Ted Mosby and Marshall Eriksen, two bestfriends who had been friend since they were freshmen at university. Besides that, Marshall also threw a joke to his other bestfriends; Barney, Robin and Lily. Marshall was taking his law school and had twenty pages of paper to write due to the next day morning. Instead of writing the paper, Marshall and his friends were hanging out in MacLaren's bar. In the middle of their conversation, Ted asked Marshall about the paper that he had to write. Marshall replied humorously by telling a joke about what he was going to do with the paper.

Refferring to the joke strategies by Esar (1961), the joke strategy used by Marshall in answering Ted's question is categorized to grammar and rhyming English. Therefore, this part will focus to grammar as the strategy. Marshall's answer consists of five utterances which are grammatically constructed in future tense. This is used to indicate activities that will be done or happen in the future. A joke in dialogue above is indicated by the use of be + going to formula in those six utterances. In other words, the utterances are repeated in the same formula by Marshall as the speaker to build the sense of humor. Repetition in a conversation gives unusual effect of the utterances. As the speaker, Marshall has two options to explain about what he is going to do about the essay. To show his idea, the first option is that he does is splitting the idea into six utterances with 'I'm going to' is repeated in the beginning of them as in (a):

(1a) 'I'm gonna knock back this beer, I'm gonna knock back one more beer. I'm gonna go home. I'm gonna write a 25 page paper. I'm gonna hand it in, and I'm gonna get an A.

The second option that the speaker can choose to state the same idea is by arranging the utterance with the omission of the repeated 'I'm gonna' as in (b):

(1b) I'm gonna knock back this beer, knock back one more beer, go home, write a 25 page paper, hand it in and get an A.

Both (1a) and (1b) contain an equal infomation about the action that he is going to take regarding the paper. Instead of that, statement in (1a) is considered jocular because it is uncommon to hear spekaer in daily communication speaking with to many repetitions. In contrast, (1b) is arranged simply and casual without any repetition of 'I'm gonna' and considered less funny than (1a). These repetitions build hearer's curiosity about what is going to happen next to the topic of the communication. To help this explanation, the researcher will divide the utterance into (1c) and (1d).

(1c) I'm gonna to knock back this beer, I'm gonna to knock back one more beer. I'm gonna go home. I'm gonna to write a 25 page paper. I'm gonna hand it in,

(1d) I'm gonna get an A

Not only plays with the grammar construction, the speaker also plays with hearer's expectation about the speaker. The information that the speaker states in his first five utterances shows that he does not take the 25 page paper seriously. Writing a qualified 25 page paper in one night is considered difficult to do. This leads the hearer to the expectation that he will get bad result for that. Instead of committing to get bad result for writing a 25 page paper a night, the speaker is optimist to get an A. An A is known to be the highest grade that a student can get in academic activity. (1c) and (1d) are two contrastive cause and effect. This is the mixmatch part of the joke besides the repetiion of 'I'm gonna'.

b. Syllabics

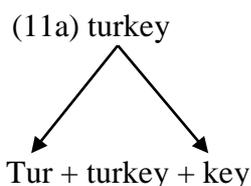
Syllable is part of language which is pronounced as unit consisting of one vowel

with one or more consonants. In humor, it has possibilities to create jocular effect by blending the syllables, alternating them, disjuncting them etc. Jokes in HIMYM are also built by playing the syllabics as found in data (2) and (11).

Data 11

- Ted : Instead of stuffing, I'm going to fill the turkey with a slightly smaller turkey. It's called a turturkeykey!
- Lily : A Turturkeykey? (Lily threw a confused look to Ted)

Ted and gang were going to hold a thanksgiving dinner. Ted was in charge of cooking the turkey. Commonly, turkey is was filled with stuff like chopped vegetables, but specially for this thanksgiving, Ted decided to cook it differently. Instead of filling it with vegetables, he chose to fill the turkey with a slightly smaller turkey. He also named this meal a turturkeykey. In dialogue above, Ted's utterance is considered humorous because of some reasons. He sets up the humor by describing about a new way of cooking turkey that he is going to try. This set up part still sound usual and does not reach the funny part yet. The funny part is when he declared the name of the meal. The name 'turturkeykey' is unusual and unpredictable. Listeners are directed to the common names of meal such as turkey with turkey slices, roasted turkey or extraordinary turkey. Listeners are unaware that the speaker will name the meals semantically played with the syllables. The name turturkeykey is semantically what speaker means by 'filling a turkey with turkey' which is also the way how he cooks the turkey. Related to the name of the meal, there is an insertion of word 'turkey' inside another 'turkey'. Word 'turkey' has two syllables 'tur' and 'key'. How syllables are played in this joke can be seen in (11a) below.



In the joke about meal name above, hearer's interpretation is misled. Hearer has his own interpretation about a meal name. Generally, a meal is named with the name of its raw material or combined with its additional raw such as: chicken with tomato soup, potato green salad and spicy beef steak. Instead of that, the speaker who throws the joke above insert a word 'turkey' in a word 'turkey'. Word 'turkey' is firstly splitted into two sullables 'tur' an 'key'. Between these two syllables another word 'turkey' is inserted and it becomes 'turturkeykey'. Thus, in this strategy the humorous effect appears because of the semantically played syllable of the meal name.

c. Rhyming English

As another outcome of phonetic play, rhyming is commonly found in English humor. In HIMYM, some main characters use it to create humor as found in data (1), (15) and (21).

Data 21

- Barney :Damn it! What's the matter with me?
- Robin : You like her. You should call her.
- Barney : Call her? Robin, three things; she had a nice face, booty was in place but Barney don't chase. (Robin stopped talking to Barney)

Barney had a huge crush of an English girl named Nora. She lived in New York and is Robin's co-worker. Everyone in the gang noticed Barney's feeling but he kept denying. Robin emphasized that barney really liked Nora and suggested him to give her a call. This idea was refused by Barney because it was hard for Barney to admit that Robin was right.

There are many ways in linguistic phenomenon to show disagreement . In this cas, Barney shows his disagreement to Robin's suggestion by creating statement in rhyme. The rhyming statement created by Barney composed by three ideas; face, place, chase which phonetically similar in rhyme.

- (21a) Robin, three things; she had a nice
face
[feis]
(21b) Booty was in place,
[pleis]
(21c) But Barney don't chase
[tfeis]

Explanation in (21a), (21b) and (21c) shows that there is a rhyme play in the speaker's utterance. The words 'face', 'place' and 'chase' similarly end in rhyme [-eis]. In daily conversation, it is uncommon to hear people speak in rhyme. It can be also said that rhyming language is made on purpose. In this case, the purpose of giving the rhyme is to amuse the hearer with a funny impression.

As joke has incongruous part, this joke is also incongruous between the set up and the punchline. This joke is set by statement (21a) and (21b). These statements contains two good values about a woman phisical appearance; nice face and butt. It needs to know that the speaker is known to be a hooker which makes it is impossible for him to not want this girl. The joke is then ended with punchline (21c) which indicates two contrast ideas.

d. Idiomatics

Idiom is a another unique phenomenon of language yet risky. Since idiom is a group of words whose the meaning is different from the meaning of the individuiual words, it cannot be guaranted that the communication is successful without any difficulties. Humor itself needs a shared understanding between the speaker and the hearer. If they don't, the joke will be flat. This wht makes idiom is risky to be made as a joke. Therefore, jokes using idiom as strategy in HIMYM are found in data (3) and (25).

Data 3

- Barney : No, not again. Not this year.
You're going as my wingman.
Flightsuit up!
Ted : No thanks. I'm sticking with the
hanging chad.
Barney : Oh, you're dangerous, Maverick.
Your ego's writing checks your

body can't cash. (Ted smiled and
both of them left the appartment)

Barney and Ted were going to celebrate Halloween party on the roof of Ted's apartement. Barney came to Ted's apartement in a fighter pilot costume. He had also prepared another exactly similar costume for Ted. Unfortunately, ted had already decided to stick with the hanging chad and refused to wear the fighter pilot costume. Barney who was a little disappointed with Ted's refusal shown his disappointment by quoting an idiom from Top Gun movie.

The conversational joke above consists of set up and punch line. Ted's and Barney's first utterance are categorized as the set up part and Barney's last utterance is the punch line.

Dialogue above consists of one joke strategy called idiomatic strategy. The use of idiomatic joke can be seen in the punch line of the joke made by Barney.

- (3a) Your ego's writing checks your body
can't cash.

In order to create pun and surprise effect the speaker, idiom (3a) is used. This idiom is a famous idiomatic quotation from Top Gun movie. The idiom 'Your ego's writing checks your body can't cash' is a figurative speech used to show disability of someone to do something bigger than his or her capability. In this idiom, 'ego' represents expectation and 'body' represents reality. In other words, this idiom is also an expression to show unequal expectation and reality. The speaker says the joke with serious facial expression following the main character in Top Gun movie.

e. Questionable English

Data 7

- Robin : Hey, everybody! Let me tell you
something about people from
Canada. Do you know why
Canadians never get a birthday
wish? Because they're too afraid to

blow out the candles. (People at the bar stared at Robin in silence)

Robin Scherbatsky was one of two female members of the gang. She was Canadian while other four members are American. Her friends like to make a joke about her nationality. Robin's utterance above happened a Minnesota Bar where Marshall took her to. At first, people at the bar liked her because she hid her real nationality and pretended to come from Bemidji, Minnesota but it didn't last longer. Marshall who was the real man who came from Minnesota did not like to see. Robin got all the attention of the people at the bar. Finally he revealed Robin's real nationality and as the impact. Robin was kicked out of the bar. Before she left, Robin shouted at the people at the bar and asked the question about Canadian to show her anger.

Robin's utterance above belongs to the most common type of joke, riddle. It is a question that is difficult to understand and has surprising answer. Referring to joke strategy formulated by Esar, it is categorized as questionable English.

Many Americans make fun of Canadian for being afraid of darkness. This is why the jokes about Canadian are often related to light. Joke in (7) is made in the form of riddle. Hearers are given a question which sounds serious but has unexpected answer. In this case, hearers do not expect that the question about candle will be related to Canadian's darkness phobia. Phrase 'birthday wish' is associated to 'candle' and 'blow'.

f. Ambiguity

Data 10

- Robin : Hey, you know what? Not every setup has a "but". What about Jamie, that girl Lily set you up with?
- Barney : Wow, who knew being in a committed heterosexual relationship could make guy so gay? (Marshall and Lily hugged and smiled at Barney)

- Marshall : Yeah
- Robin : She's really nice.
- Barney : If memory serves me, she had a huge "but". Her huge butt. Nailed it! (Barney laughed like a drain while Lily, Ted, Robin and Marshall snickered)

The gang was talking about a setup date. They believed that not all men or women they were set up to date is bad. It is commonly agreed that it is impossible to find someone perfect in a set up date. In other words, there is always minus side of them. Instead of that, they recalled a girl named Jamie that Lily set up with Barney. Robin and Barney thought that Jamie was really nice that they couldn't find the minus side of her.

The joke in Barney's last utterance above is based on the fact that there can be two possible interpretations of the same group of sound. This language phenomenon is called homophone. There are two different interpretations of sound [bʌt] exist in dialogue above Marshall and Robin set the joke by talking about 'hot' which pronounced and sound [bʌt]. the word 'but' in this situation means the contradicted character of a date. Meanwhile, Barney gets two different words for [bʌt] sound. At first, Barney follows the previous speakers and takes [bʌt] as 'but' by saying 'she had a huge but'. Following the content, it means that the girl he dated has a big or a lot of weakness. Therefore, he turns the [bʌt] sound to another possible word that is also pronounced [bʌt] which it is used to sit on and also considered as sensual part of human body. Overall, in this joke, Barney plays with ambiguity of sound.

g. Antonymics

Data 5

- Marshall : All right, well, have fun at your little disco, guys
- Barney : What the hell happened to these two?
- Lilly : Marshall and I are just growing up
- Marshall : Yeah, it's gonna be sweet, too. Like tonight we're tasting all

these different wines, pairing them up with these up with these cool gourmet cheeses.

Marshall and Lily are married couple who are also Barney's best friend. They are interested in trying some grown up activity which they had never done before. The grown up activity that they were going to try that night is wine tasting. This activity is regarded new for them considering they always spent their time sitting at MacLaren's bar for hours with the gang. Barney is a member of the gang who is well known to against all related to married things. He thought what Marshall and Lily were going to do last night was lame.

The conversational joke between Marshall, Lily and Barney above consists of set up and punch line as divided in the following categorization. The set up part is build with Marshall and Lily's explanation about the wine tasting party they're going to host at the apartment which makes them unable to join the club that night. Whereas, the punch line is Barney's response in the form of rethorical and satirical question. The division below is provided to support the set up and punch line explanation.

Marshall : All right, well, have fun at your little disco, guys
 Barney : What the hell happened to these two?
 Lilly : Marshall and I are just growing up
 Marshall : Yeah, it's gonna be sweet, too. Like tonight we're tasting all these different wines, pairing them up with these up with these cool gourmet cheeses.
 Barney : Wow, who knew being in a committed heterosexual relationship could make guy so gay?

In dialogue 5, the joke hitter is Barney. His rhetorical and satirical question turns the expectation of the hearer to Marshall and Lily's elegant and classy activity. In order to surprise the hearer, Barney's utterance is set by constructing a question with antonymic strategy.

(5a) Wow, who knew being in a committed heterosexual relationship could make a guy so gay?

The phrase heterosexual relationship has contrast meaning to gay. Heterosexual relationship is the between two sexually different individual. In other words, relationship between man and woman is the heterosexual relationship. In contrast, gay is a utterance, wine and cheese tasting are gay activity. The punch line of the joke above gives incongruous effect to the hearer because of its contrast meaning.

h. Style

Data 20

Marshall : Hey Lily needs some gift ideas for Stella's wedding shower. Does she like to cook?
 Ted : Um, actually I don't know.
 Marshall : Oh, what's her favorite color?
 Ted : Don't know that either.
 Marshall : Well, does she have any hobbies?
 Ted : Yes, she's exactly the kind of person who would have hobbies and interest too. I am one lucky son of a bitch.
 Marshall : Dude, you don't know anything about the woman you're marrying.
 Ted : What? You're crazy. I know plenty.
 Marshall : What colour are her eyes?
 Ted : The colour of the ocean after the storm.
 Marshall : Which is?
 Ted : Beautiful. (Marshall looked at Ted in the eyes)

Marshall was helping Ted packing his stuff to move in Stella after the wedding. Marshall asked him about gift ideas that he and Lily will give as a wedding present. Surprisingly, Ted did not know anything about his soon-to-be wife but he would admit that. Marshall kept asking him anything about Stella to prove that Ted really did not know anything about her. Ted tried his best to show Marshall that he knew many things about Stella by answering the question twistedly.

Ted's answer to Marshall's question is considered humorous because it violates the maxim of quality. This strategy is categorized as strategy of styles in which the simple words are replaced to the complicated one. There are two questions that Ted answer twistedly. First, the question about Stella's hobby is unable to be answered. A question about hobby can be simply answered by using noun such as cooking, fishing, reading, etc. Instead of that, the speaker gives a long explanation which is not the answer. Second, the question about Stella's eyes colour requires a fixed answer such as blue, green, brown, etc. despite mentioning the colours, Ted answers the question complicatedly. The answers 'the colour of the ocean after the storm' and 'beautiful' potentially lead the hearer to misinterpretation because both describe something relative. Overall, the style strategy used by Ted shows that quality maxim violation can be used to create jocular effect.

i. Negativism

Data 6

- Robin : Eight flights, of stairs who puts a theater up eight flights of stairs? What kind of building is this?
- Barney : From the smell of it, I'm guessing a urine factory.
- Ted : where do you guys want to sit?
- Barney : I know where I don't want to sit. (Marshall, Ted, and Robin snickered)

Barney, Ted, Robin and Marshall were invited to watch Lily's theater performance. Lily's performance was held in the eight floor of an

old building. The building was dark and fishy. When they arrived in the room they were so tired since there was no lift or escalator to help them up. Among those four friends, really looked so angry that he answer Robin and Ted's question madly.

The strategy of joke used in data 6 is called negativism. It is strategy which represents any saying whose wit is expressed through denial or refusal. In the conversation above, the speaker shows refusal by flipping the positive sentence construction with negativism. The negativism in the sentence is indicated by the use of 'don't'. By negating the positive sentence, the speaker refuses the invitation to sit which is offered through the previous speaker's question. Negativism in the pun gives the effect of incongruity because it turns the expectation of what should be the answer of the question.

j. Lexicography

Data 8

- Robin : Got to go
- Lily : Hey, where are you going? We just got here.
- Robin : Oh, a Korean massage
- Lily : By yourself?
- Robin : Well, I'd figured you'd be busy reading. What to Expect when You're Expecting to Expect. (Lily stared at Robin's leaving sadly)

Robin and Lily were two best friend and the only female members of the gang. Because of that, they used to hang out together doing some girly stuff like Korean massage. Lately, Robin was annoyed by Lily who was always talking about baby because she was planning to have one. Robin was fed up with all the baby thing that Lily always chattered. Because she could not stand it anymore. Robin decided to do the Korean massage by herself.

Conversation above has humorous aspects which are proven by laughter back sound at the end of the conversation. Thus, it can be regarded as conversational joke. In conversational joke, the joke is set up in the turn

and taking between the speakers. Meanwhile the utterance which makes it funny, usually the last one, is called punch line.

In order to give jocular effect in the conversation above, the punch line is constructed by repeating verb 'expect'. There are three verb 'expected' which are constructed in one clause. This kind of construction learns the meaning of the clause. To comprehend how this construction learns the meaning of the clause the brief explanation below will help 'What to expect when you're expecting' is a famous tagline mostly for a woman who is going to have a baby. Commonly, the tagline is only written 'What to expect when you're expecting to expect'. This addition learns the quality of the verb 'expecting'. In other words, this repetition creates playful lexicography of word 'expect'. The strategy used in this joke is grouped as the lexicography strategy.

k. Spelling

Data 13

Waitress : Hi, Kristen!
 Krirsten : Everyone pronounces it wrong
 The 'R' is after the 'I'
 Waitress : Kirsten
 Krirsten : And before the 'I' it's Krirsten
 Waitress : Your table's ready
 Barney : Wow! They're terrible!
 (Barney and Robin cackled)

Barney and Robin were having dinner at a restaurant. They were drinking on the bar chair before having meals on their table. At the same time, another couple was also drinking next to them. This couple was annoying for Barney brought from home. Barney also heard the woman talked to the waitress and complained about her misspelling her name. Barney who was really annoyed murmured by imitating the way the woman spelled her name.

The humorous sense of the dialogue above lies in Barney's utterance. In other words, it can be categorized as the punchline. There are some strategies that can be used in creating humorous effect in a conversation. In Barney's utterance, the strategy used is called spelling. The spelling

play that Barney used is categorized as intentional misspelling. In his utterance, Barney misspells the word 'terrible' becomes 'trerrible' deliberately imitating the way Krirsten spells her name. The misspelling 'trerrible' would not be able to invite laughter if the complicated spelling of Krirsten's name does not appear before. It is common to have Krirsten as a name meanwhile Krirsten sounds uncommon and weird as a name. This misspelling of 'terrible' is unexpected. The spelling pattern of terrible is e-v-c-c-v-c-c-v as in t-e-r-r-i-b-l-e. In the other side, the pattern of K-r-i-r-s-t-e-n is c-c-v-c-c-v-c. In the spelling of 'terrible', Barney imitating the insertion of letter 'r' between consonant 't' and vocal 'e' which makes the spelling pattern becomes 'c-c-v-c-c-v-c-c-v'. Thus, both Krirsten and terrible sound alike with the play of consonant 'r' encircling the vocal sound.

l. Punctuation

Data 23

Ted : some bastard snuck into my room and spilled the ink all over the Gretzky photo I was holding for Barney. Detective Mosby is on the case.
 Lily : oh, God, that's horrible.
 Ted : I know. It was a gift for Robin.
 Lily : No, I mean "oh, God, that's horrible detective Mosby's the worst". (Ted showed disappointed face to Lily)

A day before Barney and Robin's wedding there was someone snuck into Ted's room and spilled the ink over the Gretzky photo Ted was holding for Barney. Ted told it to Lily to show that he was really mad. Among the gang, Ted was known well as the pretentious detective Mosby. Many times he tried to solve a mystery case and pretended to know everything. This was most of the times annoying for the rest of the gang. After the spilling ink tragedy, Ted declared to Lily that he would solve the case and called himself Detective Mosby.

Lily is the speaker who threw the joke in above dialogue. She uses strategy of

punctuation to create the humorous effect in her utterance. Punctuation play which Lily uses is able to change the meaning of her utterance and practically change Ted's reaction too. In response to Ted's story Lily says 'Oh, God, that's horrible' in a flat expression and intonation. She skips the exclamation punctuation to let Ted misinterpret her utterance by pretending to finish her speech but actually it is not. Her full speech is "Oh, God, that's horrible detective Mosby's the worst".

m. Part of Speech

Data 26

- Marshall : Okay, Robin, what you need is indeed something that buries a bone, but I'm not talking about dog. I'm talking about a man.
- Robin : Here we go.
- Marshall: You're clearly trying to fill a hole, in her heart. You feel like the seventh wheel, because now Ted is with Zoe and Barney is with Nora and Lily's with big fudge.
- Barney : Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, Big Fudge. "with"? I'm not with Nora. Wrong preposition. Later tonight I'm hoping to be on Nora, right? Or under Nora, right? Or we're all adults, I'll just say it behind Nora. (All the people at the table chuckled)

Barney was known as a hooker among the gang. Therefore it was hard for him to admit that at that time he was in relationship with a girl named Nora. Even though his friend could see that he really fell for this girl, he kept denying it.

One way to show denial is by throwing a joke. Barney's joke contain part of speech strategy. In this strategy, preposition as part of speech is played. As the one who throws the joke, Barney splitted the preposition 'with' which means accompanying or being together into preposition 'on', 'under' and 'behind' which he refers to sex position. This joke sounds

humorous because the preposition is played. Being in a relationship has close meaning to togetherness. Among the preposition, togetherness is signed by preposition 'with'. In other words, this preposition is the most appropriate preposition to be used to describe the condition between Barney and Nora. Instead of that, barney throws the dirty joke by stating some condition about him and Nora which he actually reffers to sex activity.

n. Numerical English

Data 16

- Ted : Barney? What? You're back?
- Barney : That's right.
- Ted : in a totally new costume.
- Barney : Every Halloween I bring a spare costume in case I strike out with the hottest girl at the party. That way I have a second chance to make a first impression. (Ted Grinned to Barney)

Every October 31st Barney usually celebrated Halloween party at the rooftop party. A Halloween party was always full of people in various costume. Some of them also wore a mask to support their costume. Barney used every Halloween party to get a girl to come go home with. At first, he disguised in a fighter pilot costume and stared his move to get a girl. Unfortunately, the girl he was talking to did not like him and left because he talked too vulgar. Considering his mistake, Barney changed his costume to a penguin costume and tired to catch the same girl.

Humor in data 16 appears in Barney's utterances which conveys numerical play. There is the use of number punning technique where the numerical play is put in the punline of the joke. In this case, the punchline is Barney's utterance as in (a) below.

- (a) That way I have a second chance to make a first impression.

The numerical play used by Barney is the play of ordinal number. There is the use of first and second. Not only that, first and second in the

speaker's utterance is slightly contradictory. First in 'first impression' means that the impression comes before any other impression. In other words there is not more than one first and one after that is considered as second. The combination of two ordinal numbers, first and second creates witticism on hearers.

IV. CONCLUSION

Joke is a part of language phenomenon which can be found in both spoken and written language. As a part of language it has its own form, strategy and function. Form and strategy of joke are related each other. It has its characteristics in all linguistics aspects; phonology, morphology, syntaz, semantic, pragmatic and sociolinguistic. The twenty four linguistic strategies of joke proposed by Esar (1961) are actually derived from those linguistic fields.

Among the thirty data analyzed, fourteen strategies of joke are randomly used in this comedy. The strategies are; ambiguity, grammar, syllabics, idiomatic, questionable English, antonymics, style, negativism, lexicography, spelling, punctuation, rhyming English, numerical English and part of speech. The dominant strategy found is ambiguity. Ambiguity is the easiest strategy to create joke. It is able to mismatch the expectation of the hearer about the joke. Besides, many words in English have more than one meanings.

Since jokes in this researches categorized as conversational jokes, it gives more possibilities

for ambiguity strategies to be played. Ambiguity can be found in the form of sound and form. Especially in English, ambiguity becomes more possible to be played and twisted mostly in spoken language.

Pragmatically, there are four meanings that joke conveys. It conveys information about some state of affairs, commitment of the speaker, requests of the speaker, speakers' attitude about some state of affairs. Since the source of the data is a situational comedy, most jokes are thrown expressing speaker's attitude about some state of affairs.

There are various functions of speakers throwing jokes. Mostly, jokes are thrown on the purpose to amuse everybody included in the conversation. This is shown by the laughter or smile appears after the joke is told. It can be said that this function is related to solidarity. Solidarity also the factor which causes a joke is accepted or not. There are some jokes in this research which are categorized as dirty jokes. Its acceptance is determined by the solidarity level of the speakers in the conversation. Not only to amuse, joke can also be used to mock and tease other people, either they are included or not in the conversation. Power takes role in this function. Another function of the joke is to defend the speaker himself from any psychologically threatening condition.

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