

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Stand-up comedy show is being trendy in Indonesia lately. It is a kind of comedic style which is performed by single comedian (called *comic*). This comedy show has developed in Europe and America in 18th century. Some of the observations supported that stand-up comedy is a quite ‘young’ genre of humor. During 1960s, stand-up comedy underwent an important change. Comics started to play a central role in a performance, not only as a guess star, or a pause-filler, as, for instance, before the arrival of a famous theater group.

Nowadays, stand-up comedy shows spread out all over the world including in Indonesia. *Metro TV*, one private television channel in Indonesia starts to broadcast stand-up comedy show. Another private television channel, *Kompas TV*, has created a new program of Stand-up comedy competition for new comics since 2011. This competition also became a turning point of Stand-up comedy show in Indonesia.

Currently, stand-up comedy is one of the most popular entertainment programs in the country. Several major cities have already started their own movements, like in Jakarta, Bandung, Jogjakarta, and Surabaya. Several cafes in those cities currently hold weekly open-mikes, and monthly shows. The emergence of stand-up comedy in Indonesia is also heavily influenced by social media (Twitter and YouTube mainly), after Reggy Hasibuan, the first Indonesian

who promoted stand-up comedy by uploading his acts through YouTube for public consumption.

In Indonesia, not only performing in Bahasa, some comics also perform their stand up acts using English. By using English, those English-speaking Indonesian comics get one advantage than others who use Bahasa. English-speaking Indonesian comics' performances can be directly understood by international people so they can easily make their international debut as international comics. This famous phenomenon of the English-speaking Indonesian comics starts to catch the writer's interest to observe more about them.

There are a few related previous studies about stand-up comedy in the world. The previous studies mostly only cover about gender and cultural critique of stand-up comedy, like what has been done by Gilbert (2004) and Suzanne (2004) who concern a lot about humor material and critique used by some women in their solo comedy performances.

From the explanation above, we can know that the gap in stand-up comedy research is on its blankness in linguistic point of view. In Indonesia itself, there are a very few research about stand-up comedy. Thus, because the high popularity of Stand up comedy Indonesia is proportioned reversely with the huge gap of Indonesian research about stand-up comedy (especially in linguistic point of view), the writer is interested to take stand-up comedy as the object of her study.

Moreover, in her study the writer focuses on the humor strategies used by Indonesian comics. Humor strategies are very important because it displays

very beautiful and complicated strategies (wordplay, ridicule, etc) to make the audience laugh. English humor strategies used by Indonesian comics (who are not the English native speakers) become the most attractive thing from this study so far since this study can be included into a very first research about non-native English comics.

Indonesian comics who are being observed in the study are Reggy Hasibuan, Dana Pandawa, and Otnamree. As the first Indonesian who uploaded his stand-up comedy videos to YouTube, Reggy Hasibuan has a great influence on the emergence of stand up comedy in Indonesia. Automatically, he is also the legend the world of stand up comedy Indonesia. Dana Pandawa and Otnamree are two other Indonesian comics who also use English in their stand up performances.

This study is worthy enough to be explored because it not only answers the writer's interest, but also can fulfill the gap in both theory and practical of stand-up comedy in Indonesia. Therefore, the writer entitled her study as "Humor Strategies Used by Indonesian Comics in Stand Up Comedy Indonesia".

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Based on the above background of study, the statement of problems are listed below:

- 1). What kinds of humor strategies are used by Indonesian comics in their stand-up comedy shows?
- 2). How are the strategies used to make humor?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The study has two clear important objectives, those are:

- 1). To explain the types of humor strategies used by Indonesian comics in their stand-up comedy shows.
- 2). To explain the use of Indonesian comics' humor strategies.

1.4. Significances Of the Study

1). Theoretical Significance

The study is important because it can answer the gap in Indonesian research about how to create humor in stand up comedy as it can figure out the use of humor strategies by three English-Speaking Indonesian Comics. It is also purposed to give a contribution by marking the use of humor strategies by non-native English comics as well as directly comparing the use of humor strategies by native English comics and non-native English comics in Indonesia. Stand up comedy is very essential to be observed because it gives another way of future life for Indonesian comedy show.

2). Practical Significance

The study is expected to improve the understanding and provide more knowledge to the audience about the humor strategies used in stand-up comedy as a new popular genre of comedy in Indonesia, especially for those who learn about comedy. In addition, the study is also expected to help the language users in understanding and applying the humor strategies, especially the strategies that

appear as the creativity of non-native English comics in Indonesia and only occur in stand up comedy Indonesia.

1.5. Scope and Limitations of the Study

In order to make the study not to go too wide, there are some burdens on it. The scope of the study is in Discourse Analysis specifically in the analysis of the language of verbal humor. The theory used in the study is mostly proposed by Jeannine Schwarz (2010) about joke techniques, figurative languages, and linguistic features of joke telling which are related to humor strategies. Not all theories in Schwarz' book are used in this study considering the focus difference between her study (about the considered linguistic aspects existed in the comics' performances) and the writer's study (the strategies planned and performed by the comics to achieve their goals in making the audience laugh). Another theory comes from Sam D. Putra (2012) about blue material considering the way the comics make jokes about vulgar or taboo things which can be categorized into joke techniques.

The writer limits the analysis only on three Indonesian comics. The first comic who is being observed in this study is Reggy Hasibuan, the first Indonesian comic who uploaded his stand-up acts on YouTube. He is the pioneer of Indonesian comic in using English in his performance and of stand-up comedy community in his hometown, Malang city, East Java. One of his stand up video is used as the data of the study since it is very original and can be used as the measurement of the emergence of stand-up comedy show in Indonesia. The

second and the third Indonesian comics who are also being observed are Dana Pandawa and Otnamree. They widely represent other linguistic aspects and humor strategies in stand up comedy Indonesia. It makes the data rich enough to be explored.

1.6. Definition of Terms

Stand up comedy, a young new genre of comedy discussed in the study is the term for a comedy genre which the performer, who is called the *comic* or *stand-up comedian*, stands on the stage and directly speaks to the audience and tell funny stories or jokes to create humor. *Humor* is the main aim to be reached by the comics on the stage which refers to the happy or pleasure situation because people feel that there is something funny with the comics' stories.

Meanwhile, *humor strategies* refer to the strategies planned and performed on the stage by the comics to achieve their main aim in making the audience laugh by creating humor. One of the humor strategies discussed in the study is joke techniques. *Joke techniques* are the comics' ways in which many different things like paralanguage and blue material are used to form jokes. The last definition of term is *Indonesian comics*. They are Indonesian person (in this case, are also absolutely non-native English speakers) who use English as the language of their stand up comedy performance.