

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a brief explanation of why the writer conducts the study. It also includes the statements of the research problems, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language can be considered as one of the most important things that human need. People need language as a tool to communicate. By using language, people can communicate by each other anytime, anywhere, in their daily lives. By using language, they can talk about many things. They can talk about their private problems such as their family or just common things such as weather, economy, and politic.

By using language, they can express so many feelings such as: admiration, likeness, indignation, annoyance, respect, disrespect, stressfulness and many other feelings. Sometimes, language is also used as a way to criticize something. In criticizing, people might use many media and forms of language. They might use articles, ballyhoos, billboards, TV shows, and many more. They are even able to criticize in a warm-leisure program like the subject being discussed by this thesis; The Stand-up comedy shows.

In stand-up comedy shows, so many forms of critics are often found. The critics are various. Sometimes, it is presented smoothly and politely. Sometimes, it is also in the form of blue materials. Yet most of the times, it is presented harshly and impolite. In Stand-up comedy shows, it is allowed to become impolite as long as it does not involve the use of forbidden words and its purpose is to invite people's laughter.

Talking about stand-up comedy shows, these shows were actually originated in Europe and America and have been developed there since 18th century. Some observers agree that stand-up comedy show is a kind of 'young' genre of humor. Today, these shows are one of the most popular and entertaining television programs. Several stand-up comedians not only make it as something to entertain other people and produce laughter, but also as an expected occupation or profession to make money.

Stand-up comedy deals with language. The comedians, or commonly we call them the comics, deliver their monologues through language. Language, for now, is the only tool along with body gestures and mimics to produce laughter and make people happy.

Armijo (2011) defines stand-up comedy as an art form performed in front of the audience lively. As a result, feedback from the audiences is one of the main features of this kinds of comedy, since the show is watched live and receive response from the audience immediately. Ideally, the response is in the form of stream of laughter from the audience. However, even a professional stand-up comedian, sometimes they are not funny enough through their performance. If the

audience are not pleased and feel that the joke is not funny, they commonly show their disappointment by booing or whistling at the stand-up comedian. In stand-up comedy show, such a display of disapproval from the audience is known as “heckling”.

In this case, good stand-up comedians will do anything to successfully engage the audience with their performance. As the result, they must thoroughly develop a humorous routine through their live stand-up comedy performances. The routine known as “monologue” and it commonly consists of several humorous stories containing short jokes or known as “bits” and “one-line jokes” or “one-liners”. The stand-up comedian has to develop the routine thoroughly and consequently. It commonly takes quite some time to make it perfect. As a result, most stand-up comedians perform the same routine repeatedly in their show. To avoid the same theme, the same monologue in each of their performances, stand-up comedian makes some spontaneous improvement to make the audience laugh by making jokes which contain impoliteness.

There are many comics who utilize sarcasm and impoliteness to make their monologue or joke funny and take the attention of the audiences. They commonly make some jokes which contain sarcasm and impoliteness through ethnicity, politics and things like that. In the name of comedy and to entertain the audience, stand-up comedian considered it as something fine. While for other people it can be something that is really annoying and mocking.

Comparing skin tone, talking about unusual habitual of other ethnicity, mocking on other people culture and complaining the controversial policy of

government would be a good materials to produce laughter in the stand-up comedy show. As Hobbes (1996) says that “we found joy and amusement when we observe the imperfections of others”. This means that actually all this time we laugh for other people imperfection, whether we discover it directly or told by other people such us in stand-up comedy show that we watch on the screen.

Sometimes, it is found that stand-up comedy show is fun and very entertaining, so that all ages can enjoy it freely, while actually in the show sometimes it is figured out that there are some jokes, and monologue that is not appropriate for children and other segment of people. For example to those who their ethnicity is being talked, or those whose imperfection is taken as materials to make joke and produce laughter.

Ways and techniques of each comedian to present impoliteness languages or materials may have variations. It depends on his or her style of comedians. Comics who adopt strong critical styles may show the impoliteness tangibly, while those who adopt soft critical styles may use irony instead of mockery. Since the presentations of impoliteness languages or materials in Stand-up comedy are interesting to study, so this study is conducted. In general, this study aims to find out the impoliteness strategies applied by the comics in Stand-up comedy shows. The writer chooses stand-up comedian performances as the sources of data in order to elaborate sufficient discussion about the existence of impoliteness in language perspective. Below is the example of impoliteness strategies used by a stand-up comedian which is one of the data of this study.

When you're a parent and you have a son.
 The one thing the worries you the most and constantly
 bothering you.
 Is...
 Is he gay?
 Not that there's anything wrong with that.
 But it's a question of a lifetime.
 Every action he makes there's a paranoia.
"What's that pink shirt is it fashion or passion?"
"What's the meaning of that tattoo is it for a fraternity or
a sorority?"
"Why wear earrings is it a rock band or a glee club?"
 It's unthinkable.

The monologue script above is taken from a comedy monologue script entitled, "*The Bothering Son*". It is one of the examples of *Bald on Record Impoliteness* which belongs to entertaining function. The monologue is about the fear of parents on how their son grows up. They worry about whether their son will be straight or gay. From the example, it can be seen how the stand-up comedian uses interesting diction and rhyme to make his comedy fun. Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting a study about impoliteness strategies used by stand-up comedians.

1.2 Statement of Research Problems

The problem of this research is the kinds of impoliteness strategies used by the stand-up comedian. Based on the introductions above, this research aims to answer the two questions below:

1. What are the types of impoliteness strategies found in the stand-up comedy monologue script?

2. What are the functions of the impoliteness strategies found in the stand-up comedy monologue script?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

After formulating some questions above, this research has two clear important objectives, they are:

1. To explain the types of impoliteness strategies found in the stand-up comedy monologue script.
2. To explain the functions of the impoliteness strategies found in the stand-up comedy monologue script.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This study is important as good reference and information about impoliteness strategies used by stand-up comedian. Some of their jokes actually are not totally fun. There are some strategies in their monologue when they are standing and giving their jokes which actually contain sarcasm that are not good for young generations to watch. By conducting this study, it is hoped this study can give both theoretical and practical contribution.

Theoretically, this study is expected to give knowledge to the reader about the use of impoliteness strategies used in stand-up comedy. It is also hoped this study can give contribution to the knowledge in linguistic field of study. Moreover, this study is also expected to be a foundation for the next researchers who are interested in conducting a study of impoliteness strategies.

Practically, after reading this study, the writer hopes that the readers can get information about the use of impoliteness strategies in stand-up comedy. So, they will be wiser to choose television program especially comedy shows. Being impolite and sarcastic to other people are not good for us as human being. The writer hopes that the comics will be smarter to create their stand-up materials. There are so many ways to produce super funny jokes, so that after reading this thesis, they would reduce their materials that use impoliteness strategies. The writer hopes that the stand-up comedians, who read this study, would realize that being impolite is not always being funny.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study is Pragmatics, focussing on impolite strategies used by stand-up comedians. The writer uses Culpeper's theories about the five impoliteness strategies. They are: (1) bald on record impoliteness, (2) positive impoliteness, (3) negative impoliteness, (4) sarcasm or mocking politeness, and (5) withhold politeness. For the functions of impoliteness strategies, the writer uses Culpeper's theories. They are affective function, coercive function, and entertaining function. The data of this study are the utterances or jokes produced by the stand-up comedians which contain impoliteness during the shows.