

***SPEECH ACT CATEGORIES IN BILL COSBY'S AND ROWAN ATKINSON'S
STAND UP COMEDY***

TERM PAPER

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
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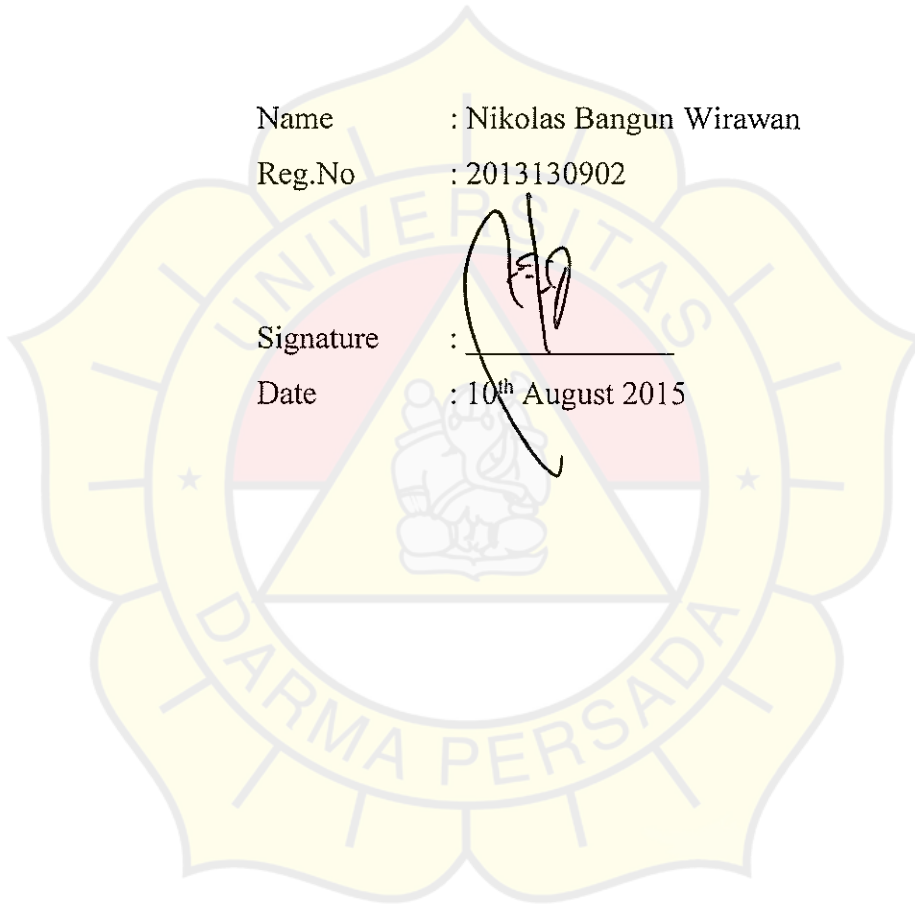
is a scientific research I conducted under the guidance of Tommy Andrian, S.S, M.Hum. Since the term paper is truly original not a half or total plagiarism of another works, the contents has become my responsibility. The things related to other's people work are written in quotation and included within bibliography.

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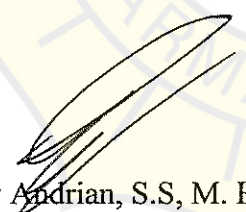
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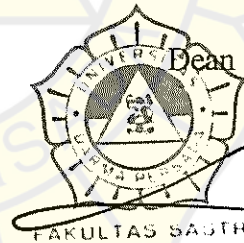
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PREFACE

Praise to Jesus Christ, my lord and savior. My God almighty the one reason I could conduct this term paper from the beginning. This term paper I conduct entitled *Speech Act Categories in Bill Cosby's and Rowan Atkinson's Stand Up Comedy*. The term paper serves as a partial fulfillment for obtaining S-1 Degree in English Literature Program at University of Darma Persada.

This paper would not have finished without contribution and guidance from all of my lecturer, supervisor, colleagues, friends and also families. In this opportunity I would like to express my appreciation, respect and honor for those who have given their contribution and support until this research can be accomplished.

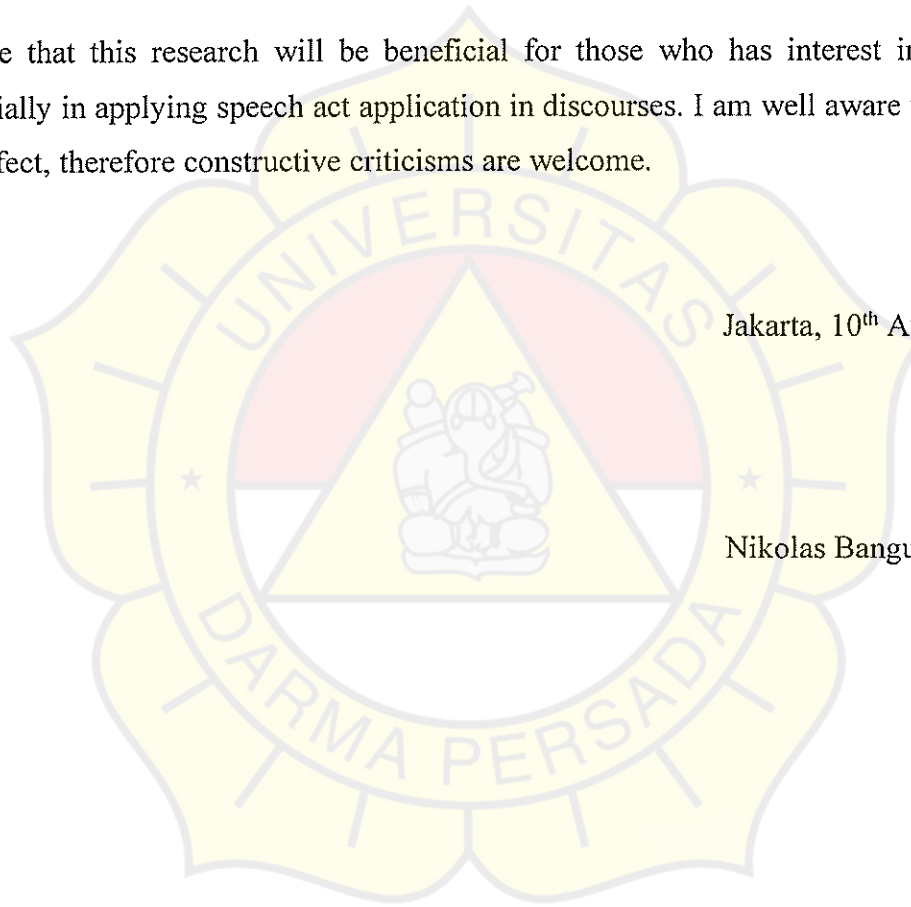
1. To Dean of faculty of Letters, Mr. Syamsul Bahri, S.S, M.Si for his approval to this term paper. To the Head of English Department, Mr. Tommy Andrian, S.S, M.Hum for his permission to accomplishing this term paper. The latter also acts as my second supervisor, therefore, I also like to offer my gratitude for her time and guidance throughout the process of writing this term paper.
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3. Mr. Tommy Andrian, S.S, M.Hum as my academic advisor and to all lectures who have thought and expanded my knowledge of English during my time at the university, Mrs. Fridolini, S.S, M.Hum, Mrs. Eka Yuniar, S.S, M.Si, Mr. Agustinus Haryana, S.S, M.Si, Mr.Yoga Pratama, S.S, M.Pd, Mrs. Diar Putri Mutia, S.S, M.Hum, Mr. Rusdy, S.S, M.Si, Mrs. Titik Minarti, S.S, M.Hum and other lectures.
4. To my beloved family. My parents, for their endless love, patience and support. My greatest gratitude also goes to my beloved wife Donna Piterson and my handsome precious baby boy Laurensius Marshall Daniswara who are always there for me no matter what. To my brother Yohanes Wiratama, my mother in law, my sisters in laws, my grandmother, thank you for your support.

5. To my fellow comrades: Ardy and Ririn. Thank you very much for all the joy you guys brings to me during all the years we spent together. To Dede, I sincerely hope that you can finish your study soon. My gratitude also goes to my other friends and acquaintances in Unsada.
6. To my dearest boss and colleagues: Anastasia Dewi, Apandi Lesmana, and many else whose names I cannot mention one by one, thank you so much for all your presence in my life. You guys have lighted my life, and I just want to say thank you for all the ups and downs throughout the time we spent together.

I hope that this research will be beneficial for those who has interest in linguistic, especially in applying speech act application in discourses. I am well aware that nobody is perfect, therefore constructive criticisms are welcome.

Jakarta, 10th August 2015.

Nikolas Bangun Wirawan



ABSTRAK

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Judul : *Speech Act Categories in Bill Cosby's and Rowan Atkinson's Standup Comedy*

Penelitian ini membahas tentang penerapan kategori tindak tutur dalam pertunjukan standup comedy oleh Bill Cosby dan Rowan Atkinson. Dalam membawakan sebuah pertunjukan standup comedy, standup comedian tidak hanya bercerita tentang suatu kejadian dan dibuat lucu, tetapi harus berinteraksi juga dengan penontonnya untuk itu penggunaan tindak tutur tidak bisa dihindari lagi. Dalam teori tindak tutur terdapat beberapa kategori yang dapat digunakan oleh standup comedian untuk menggambarkan materi yang sedang dibawakannya. Walaupun hanya sendiri diatas panggung, stand up comedian berperan sebagai pembawa cerita sekaligus melakonkan tokoh yang ada pada materinya. Maka jenis komedi ini disebut komedi yang pintar karena standup comedian juga bertindak tutur untuk menhidupkan tokoh pada materinya yang melakukan percakapan dengan tokoh lain dan untuk berinteraksi dengan penontonnya. Tindak tutur yang digunakan juga harus memperhatikan dari kalangan apakah penonton pada saat membawakan materinya? Pembawaan materi standup comedy dari Bill Cosby dan Rowan Atkinson sangat kuat sehingga juga dapat menjadi referensi bagi stand up komedian lainnya. Materi yang mengacu pada permasalahan sosial dapat berpengaruh kepada penontonnya karena bisa berupa tindak tutur yang memberikan informasi bersifat provokatif.

Kata kunci: *Tindak tutur, standup comedy, komika, penonton, provokatif*

ABSTRACT

Name : Nikolas Bangun Wirawan
Program of Study : Strata One (S-1) Degree of English Department
Title of Term Paper : *Speech Act Categories in Bill Cosby's and Rowan Atkinson's Standup Comedy*

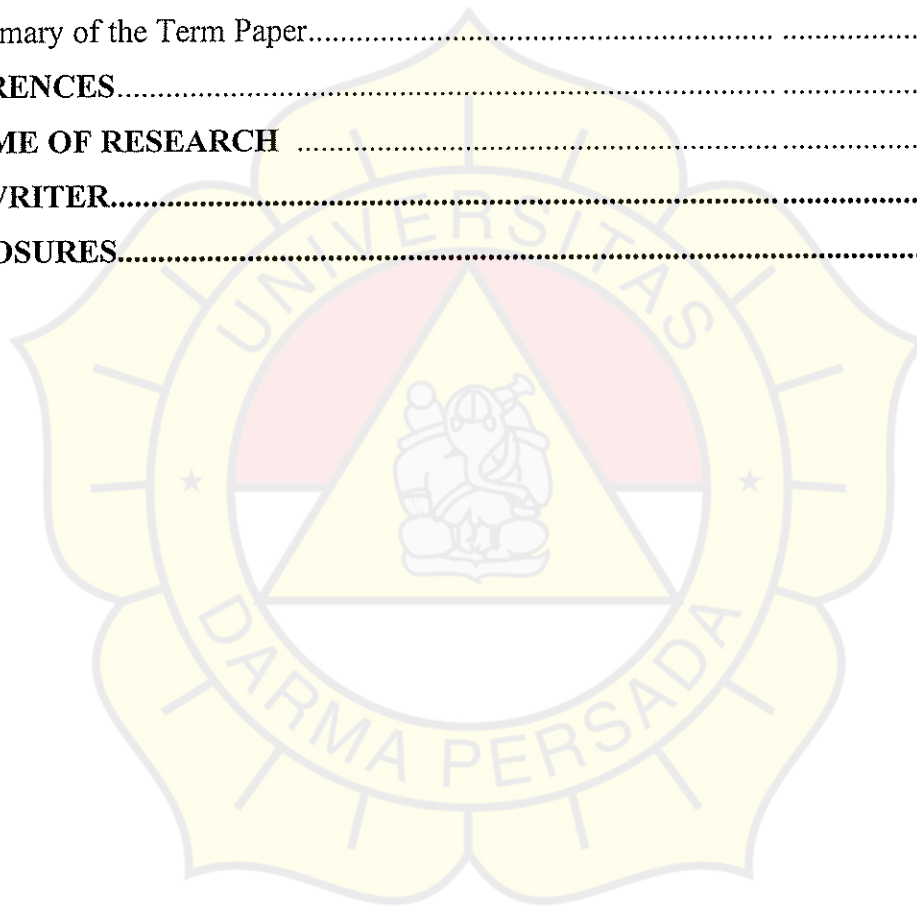
This research is to discuss about the application of speech act categories in standup comedy performances by Bill Cosby and Rowan Atkinson. To deliver the standup comedy performances, standup comedian not only tells a story about an event in funny ways, but they must make interaction with the audience, so standup comedian cannot avoid the speech acts categories. In speech acts theories there are some categories that used by the standup comedian to describe the material performed. Event stands alone on stage, standup comedian also act as the story teller. So this kind of comedy often calls smart comedy, because the standup comedian acts as the character and makes conversation with other characters in the material and to make interaction with the audience. The material performances by Bill Cosby and Rowan Atkinson are very strong and can also become as the references to other comedian. The material based on social matters can affect the audience because it can as a speech acts that giving provocative information.

Keywords: *Speech act, standup comedy, standup comedian, audience, provocative*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Standup comedy is a kind of comedy performed on stage by one person called standup comedian, comic, standup comic, or simply a standup performer. Their performance filmed for later released through digital video disc (DVD), the internet, and also television. The materials sometimes are funny stories or short jokes. Comic also delivers roast comedy by using Face Threatening Acts (FTA) in funny ways. Basically comedy is an invitation to laugh so the performance should be interesting and informative. The concept has to be well prepared, so the audience will think that the performance delivered in spontaneous way. The characterizations and personalities of the comic must be strong too, so that the audience can get their perception about the comic. In standup comedy show, comic describes many expressions based on the phenomenon and daily environment events by regarding the way of people's lives. Standup comedy has functions in addition to be informing, entertaining, but also criticizing, which is insinuating. A comic tries to convince the audience with sometimes directly provokes the audience to believe their words. Standup comedy can be a media to think in other ways, outside of the box about what happens in daily life and event. The mark of a great comedian is not just a person who vocalizes silly puns, but someone who touches on real issues in a comedic style. This is the point which is attempted to be highlighted by standup comedian.

"The intentionally ludicrous is the joke. It is the effort to bring about a discrepancy between the conceptions of another and the reality by disarranging one of the two." (Schopenhauer, 1909: 281). Humor is in fact a form of intelligence. More specifically, those that have a good sense of humor tend to also have a high level of emotional intelligence. Sometimes a person cannot understand a context as a comedy because this person cannot understand the discourse uttered by speaker.

In this opportunity, the writer determines to analyze speech acts in standup comedy. In order to make audience laughed, a comic does many things on stage. To reach the

purpose, a comic must consider their speech acts in delivering the materials in order to make it funny. The way of a comic delivers the message is like to invite the audience to get involved into the matters. If it is interesting, unconsciously the audience feels like the victim or the object of the material's story. A comic makes interaction to the audience and the comic's utterance is affirmed by speech acts. Speech acts are showing the audience how the speaker delivers information or message to the audience (Searle 1969). A speech act might contain just one word, as in "Sorry!" to perform an apology, or sentence as in "Sorry, I forgot your birthday". Missing information happens because the speaker does not realize that the speech acts actually could help them in order to transfer the message without misunderstanding. Based on J. R. Searle's research, speech acts are divided into 5 categories: Assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. *Every category has its own functions that can affirm the purpose of the utterances* (Searle 1969: 31). These categories are often heard in our everyday cases such as asserting, marrying, promising and ordering utterances, for instance.

In standup comedy show, we are often involved emotionally too, because of some utterances. Empirically we can take some examples from some comics and their speech acts to be analyzed. Systematically comics must apply the material contents combined with the speech acts while they deliver the material to the audience. If the material is not interesting they can modify with speech acts in creative ways. If it does not work, the comics must try harder to make the audience laughs. By doing that, the comics are trained to become an actor.

There are so many comics in the world with their own specializations. Most of them are good actors. If we take an example, for instance Bill Cosby's performance, we can see that he has many expressions which are very unique and funny combined with the material that he brings out. He likes wearing mask with many faces to describe his material and his expressions. Sometimes he makes some over reactions in his performance in order to be funny. If we compare Bill's performance with another comic, we can take Rowan Atkinson's performance for instance. They do their speech acts in their own ways and of course it is different. But regarding the category of speech acts,

(Searle 1969: 31) their utterances are included in the same categories. Audience laughs because they understand the meaning and purpose.

Here the writer would like to prove that speech act categories are not only a theory but also can be applied in daily conversation uses and it can be applied in standup comedy performances. It means that if someone can make some creative things in doing speech acts, he or she can entertain people and to reach the purpose. A comic must use the utterances that are categorized in this research theory approach.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, the writer would like to limit the identification of a problem about a standup comedian who delivers the utterances to the audience on stage. Creative speech acts in standup comedy combining with right timing management can give great explosion in bits and punch lines. Basic knowledge of speech act includes examples and functions of each category in normal uses compared with speech act theories that is applied in standup comedy performance.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the writer's identification of the problem, here the writer would like to limit the problem accordance with the theory of speech acts developed by John. L. Austin (1955) and J. R. Searle (1969). The expressions of the comic in utterances and acts are also combined with creativity to reach the purposes to make the audience laugh. A comic shares knowledge with a good material preparation as well.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the writer's limitation of the problem, the formulation is about relation between comic's material and utterances with the theory of speech act categories developed by John. L. Austin (1955) and J. R. Searle (1969). The analysis deals with numerous questions:

1. What speech act categories can be applied in standup comedy performance?
2. What kinds are creative speech acts in standup comedy?

E. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the research, it can be stated that the general objectives of this research are:

1. To analyze speech act categories that can be applied in standup comedy performances.
2. To analyze creative speech acts in standup comedy.
3. To make a scheme of speech acts categories.

F. Method of the Research

This research uses qualitative research method. Data are analyzed in qualitative way and explored with observation from some sources with detail explanation and applicative examples of each theory of speech acts based on popular standup comedy. It is analyzed based on category of speech acts developed by John. L. Austin (1955) and J. R. Searle (1969).

G. Benefit of the Research

The benefit of this research is to share knowledge about standup comedy, to motivate readers as the audience of standup comedy, to watch smart comedy and also to analyze humor as the application of linguistics' theories especially for speech act's categories. By thus, audience could consider the function of linguistics' theory by using the examples of speech acts in standup comedy.

H. Systematic Organization of the Research

Organizational Presentation would be presented with:

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter consists of background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, the objective of the research, framework of theories, method of the research, benefits of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

Chapter II: Speech Act Theory

This chapter consists of the explanation of speech act theory developed by John. L. Austin (1955) and J. R. Searle (1969) and the examples in every single category.

Chapter III: The Application of Speech Act Category in Standup Comedy

This chapter consists of speech act application in standup comedy performance. How the standup comedian does their speech act in order to make the audience laughs.

Chapter IV: Conclusion

This chapter consists of the conclusion and summary of this research.

