THE UNCONDITIONAL MAXIM OF RELEVANCE IN *FRIENDS* SITCOM EPISODE I

TERM PAPER

Submitted in part-fulfillment for obtaining Strata One (S-I)Degree

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT PAGE

I hereby declare that the term-paper is the result of my own work, and all the sources quotation or refereneed has been stated correctly.

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PREFACE

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I realize there are unintended errors in writing this term paper, Suggestions and constructive criticism are welcomed to improve this term-paper.

Jakarta, July 2013

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ABSTRAK

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Judul : THE UNCONDITIONAL MAXIM OF RELEVANCE IN FRIENDS SITCOM EPISODE 1

Studi ini tentang ujaran-ujaran yang diujarkan oleh para tokoh di sitcom Friends *episode 1 yang berkesinambungan tidak bersyarat. Berkesinambungan tidak bersyarat merupakan hubungan antara lokusi dan perlokusi yang secara eksplisit tidak berkesinambungan namun sebenarnya secara implisit itu tetap berkesinambungan. Hal ini berhubungan dengan* maxim of relevance *dan teori* relevance *dari* Grice. *Dia menyatakan bahwa semua ujaran dalam percakapan harus memenuhi ketentuan cooperative principle khususnya maxim of relevance, selain itu,* Sperber *dan* Wilson *menyatakan bahwa semua ujaran itu berkesinambungan selagi tetap berada dalam konteks yang sama. Didalam sitcom ini kebanyakan ujaran dipengaruhi oleh unsur humor sehingga menyebabkan secara eksplisit ujaran tersebut tidak berkesinambungan. Berdasarkan pandangan dari* Sperber *dan* Wilson, *itu tidak dapat dikatakan tidak berkesinambungan, lebih tepatnya itu disebut berkesinambungan yang tidak bersyarat dan sesuai dengan ketentuan* maxim of relevance.

Kata kunci:Kesinambungan tidak bersyarat, maxim of relevance, sitcom Friends, Grice, Sperber dan Wilson

ABSTRACT

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Title : THE UNCONDITIONAL MAXIM OF RELEVANCE IN FRIENDS SITCOM EPISODE 1

This study is about unconditional relevant utterances which are uttered by the characters in *Friends* sitcom episode 1. Unconditional relevant is relation between locution and perlocution that are irrelevant explicitly but relevant implicitly. It relates to the maxim of relevance and relevance theory by Grice. He says that conversation should fulfill all the rules of cooperative principle especially maxim of relevance.in the other hands, Sperber and Wilson say that all the utterances in the conversation are relevant as long as it still relates to the context. In this sitcom, the utterances are influenced by the humor and it causes the utterances are irrelevant explicitly. Based on the Sperber and Wilson's opinion, it is not be able to say irrelevant but it is unconditional relevant and appropriate with the rules of the maxim of relevance.

Key words:Unconditional relevant, maxim of relevance, Friends sitcom, Grice, Sperber and Wilson

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

In communication, people use language to share the information they have. The language can be spoken, written or signed. Commonly, people use the spoken and written ones that mean people use words in order to speak and write what they want to share. The thing they want to share is various. It may be ideas, orders, feelings or questions. People share the information to have response from the others. It means people speak and write not only to share their ideas but also to have feedback from another people. The feedback is the response from the hearers after getting the utterances and making perception about it, identification and then interpretation of it.

According to Chomsky's theory, linguistic competence was an essential element for learners to acquire a language. The language learning should not focus on grammatical competence only. Instead, he suggested that communicative competence is also important element in language learning. According to Raskin's theory, proposed that competence of humor should also play an important part in language learning. In order to reach good communication among interlocutors, Grice suggested that speaker should obey the four cooperative maxims (i.e. maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner) in the process of communication. In addition, Attardo and Raskin, say that speakers may violate the maxim of cooperative principle purposely in the process of conversation in order to arouse hearers' laughter.

In this paper, I will try to analyze the unconditional maxim of relevance in *Friends* sitcom. Before I explain about the problem I will tell shortly about *Friends* sitcom. *Friends* is an American sitcom created by David Crane and Marta Kauffman. This sitcom revolves around a group of friends in Manhattan; there are six main characters in this series that has different style and different characteristic that make this sitcom totally entertaining, they are Monica, Joey, Ross, Rachel, Phoebe, and Chandler. This sitcom became popular because of all stories that has different message that be able to

make the people laugh. In this sitcom, many conversation that irrelevant explicitly and make people need to think what the actors and actress meant. This irrelevant utterance purposely made by the writer to make this sitcom different with others and be popular because of there is no share of knowledge between each other. All the conversations have a special meaning and full of jokes.

Based on the theory of relevance by Sperber and Wilson, I would like to prove that all the utterances in conversation are relevant as long as it still relates to the context. Although the humor can influence the irrelevance explicitly, the meaning of that utterance is relevant implicitly. To confirm my arguments, I give the explanation of the locution, illocution, perlocution, and implicature.

In other hands, words become important for human's life because they cannot speak nor write without words, respectively it does not mean that sign language is not important. They have strong effects to the hearers. So I want to analyze the words, sentences, and the utterances in *Friends* sitcom episode 1 that are irrelevant explicitly but still containing the meaning and be able to accept by the people (unconditional relevant)

1.2 Identification of the Problem

According to the background, I identify the problem in *Friends* sitcom that has many utterances in each conversation that are irrelevant explicitly. Almost all conversations in this sitcom consist of the unconditional relevant utterances. In this case unconditional relevant utterance is the responses of hearers are irrelevant explicitly but still relate with the context. By this paper I will show the unconditional utterances and compare the idea about relevance theory between Grice and Sperber and Wilson.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

According to the identification of problem, I limit the problem only about the unconditional maxim of relevance in *Friends* sitcom. After I watched this sitcom in many times, I found many conversations that are irrelevant explicitly but still relate with the context. In this paper I will show 20 utterances that are irrelevant and explain the implicature to make clear this unshared of knowledge in this sitcom.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

According to limitation of the problem, I formulate the statement of the problem as follow:

1.4.1 How many unconditional relevant and unexpected utterances in *Friends* sitcom?

1.4.2 Can the context of conversation affect the irrelevant response of the hearers implicitly?

1.4.3 How can humor influence the irrelevant utterances explicitly in *Friends* sitcom?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

According to the problems that I found, there are some objectives of this research, as follow:

1.5.1 To find out the unconditional relevant utterances by the speaker in *Friends* sitcom Episode 1

1.5.2 To find out the unconditional relevant utterances by the hearers in *Friends* sitcom episode 1

1.5.3 To find out the relation between maxim of relevance and theory of humor in *Friends* sitcom episode 1

1.6 Framework of the Theories

This research focuses to the maxim relevance and influence of humor, so I use the theory of maxim by Paul Grice in his theory of cooperative principle and his article *logic and conversation,* the theory of implicature, the theory of Relevance by Sperber, the theory of humor by Attardo and the cooperative principle in humor.

1.7 Methods of the Research

According to the framework of the theories, I apply the methods of the research with qualitative method. By this method, I will analyze the unconditional maxim of

relevance in *Friends* sitcom and prove that by some examples of the utterances in some conversations.

1.8 Benefits of the Research

This paper is useful for people who interest to maxim of relevance and could be base of our knowledge that around us there are many unconditional relevant utterances, I give some case examples to show the problem. I hope this paper could open our mind about our conversation and our utterances so there is relevance between a speaker and a listener.

1.9 Systematic Organization of the Research

This writing of the term paper has paper organization. I arrange it to be some sections that consist of four chapters,

Chapter 1: Introduction

In this chapter, I explain about background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, statement of the problem, framework of the theories, methods of the research, purposes of the research, and the benefits of this research that analyze the unconditional maxim of relevance in Friends sitcom episode 1.

Chapter 2 framework of the theories

This chapter consists of theory of maxim, theory of cooperative principle by Grice, theory of relevance by Sperber, theory of implicature, theory of humor by Attardo, and the cooperative principle in humor.

Chapter 3: Analysis of violation of maxim of relevance in Friends sitcom episode 1

In this chapter, I analyze the data as the transcript of Friends sitcom episode 1 to show the unconditional maxim of relevance in some conversation and give the implicature meaning. I

analyze about 20 conversations that irrelevance implicitly and explicitly.

Chapter 4: Conclusion

In this chapter, I conclude the analysis of the finding of the complete study.