

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is used by someone to express himself/herself and communicate with his/her fellow man, and it is acquired naturally. It is widely known that a communication can be done with a process of interaction between listener and the sender which use message and produce feedback. On the other hand it can also be done by just a process of transmitting message from sender to listener without feedback. Fenner (2013) says that in one way communication, the message or information is transferred only from sender to listener. This kind of communication is limited since it occurs in straight line from sender to listener with little feedback.

Stand up comedy is one of comedy types that represent a unique realization of one way communication. Verbal comedy such as stand up comedy take over as one of most popular among other verbal comedies. Astuti, Sada, & Wardah (2013 : 2) argue that stand up comedy is humor and joke transformed into monologue activity and performed in front of the audiences. It is different from other comedy genre since it is emphasizing on strong verbal humour and direct interaction with the audience. In terms of the language use in stand up comedy, Chunqi (2014 : 276) says in stand up comedian speech there are figurative language, word play, pun, implication, and allusion as the linguistic aspect to make the performances funny and interesting.

There are a lot of talented and attractive comics performed in the show across the world. One of the talented comics from America is Trevor Noah. He is a stand up comedian from America but he is originally from South Africa. As stated in his official website page [Trevor Noah.com](http://TrevorNoah.com), his stand up comedy career attained success leading to appearances on American late night talk-show called The Daily Show after previously became a part of British panel shows. He is frequently applauded because of his simple yet critical material that has an interesting content about culture differences even politics. Other comics may enhance their performance by making funny body gestures or playing musical instruments but Trevor Noah attracts people attention by his smart material especially when he talks about various culture differences in his material by using various figurative languages.

A stand-up comedy always includes a writing process before it is performed on the stage by a stand-up comedian. Therefore, a stand-up comedian will has his/her own style in building a humor material. In order to analyze a stand-up comedian style in using figurative language, figure of speech analysis with stylistic approach can be used. Stylistic is a study of style, in this study a style can be analyzed in terms of analyzing figure of speech in stand-up comedian humor material by using this approach can shed light on the style of their figure of speech use in constructing humor. However, this study specifically only focus on figure of speech that is used by Trevor Noah in his stand-up comedy performances.

Along with the increasing popularity of stand up comedy in recent years, study of humor especially in stand-up comedy is boosted. Although it has been

studied from different field of linguistics (Onanuga, 2019; Masaeli & Heidari, 2019), pragmatics studies (Adetunji, 2013; Nayef & El-Nashar, 2014), or discourse studies (Adegoju & Oyeboode. 2015; Holmes, 2000), the researcher found only few studies conducted by using stylistic approach. Previously, study in humor field had been conducted by Andrew (2010), he investigated the essence of humor in Japanese comedy called *Manzai* and American stand-up comedy, his study involving EFL students to examine how foreign humor is perceived by Japanese. In other hand, Armijo et al (2010) had done similar cross cultural study but by comparing humor from three cultures at the same time; North American, English, and Chilean, more over his study specifically investigated the use of irony and sarcasm in stand up comedy.

However, the study is different from the previous studies since this study focused on figurative language of humor from American stand up comedian named Trevor Noah. So this study aims to find what type of figure of speech is commonly used by Trevor Noah in constructing humor to create a funny and interesting stand up comedy performances. This study is useful in providing an analysis of style in verbal comedy specifically in terms of the use of figure of speech and its roles to build humor which is still very small in number.

1.2 Research Questions

According to the topic of the study, the researcher consider that it is important to make research problems before making research on this subject, such as;

1. What are the types of figures of speech found in stand-up comedy materials by Trevor Noah?
2. What are the meanings of figures of speech that are found in Trevor Noah's stand-up comedy material?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objective of this study are;

1. To find out the types of figures of speech used in Trevor Noah's stand-up comedy material.
2. To explain the meanings of figures of speech in Trevor Noah's stand-up comedy material.

1.4 Limitation of The Study

The study has some limitations. First, since this study conducted a stylistic analysis of performance by Trevor Noah; an American stand up comedian, therefore, they are not meant for generalizations across the board. Rather, the study is intended to illustrate the style of verbal comedy performed by him. Second, there are four categories in stylistic analysis, those are lexical category, grammatical category, figure of speech, and context and cohesion. However, this research will only focus on figure of speech in Trevor Noah's stand up comedy. Figure of speech itself is a board category therefore the researcher only looks on figure of speech based on Perrine (1969) theory that divided the figure of speech into comparison, association, and contradiction.

1.5 Significance of The Study

It is expected that the result of the research would bring some theoretical and practical benefits for everyone. The specifications of the contributions of the research are as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the results of this research would enrich the specific knowledge concerning in the figure of speech style of verbal humor in stand-up comedy material and their roles in constructing humor.

2. Practical Significance

- 1) This research is expected to be useful for linguistic students who are interested in studying stylistic especially style of figure of speech use in verbal humor.
- 2) This research is expected to be beneficial for person who wants to learn how to make an interesting stand-up comedy material by using figure of speech.

1.6. Definition of keyterms

1. Figure of Speech: According to Perrine (1969) Figure of speech are another way of adding extra dimension to the language. In this study, figure of speech is defined as direct or indirect way of saying something other than the ordinary way in order to achieve special effects.
2. Verbal Humour: Shade (1996: 2) defines verbal humor as humor that involves language which function is to create funny effects. Based on that, verbal

humour in this study is defined as humorous utterances that use spoken language to elicit laughter.

3. Stand-up Comedy : According Caviness (2013: 1) “Stand-up comedy is an inherently rhetorical discourse; it strives not only to entertain, but to persuade” . In this study, stand-up comedy is defined as a verbal comedy that is performed in front of a live audiences not only for entertainment purpose but also to persuasive purpose by leading the audiences to look at the world through the the speaker’s vision.