

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section discusses about the background of the whole research, expounding on the background of the research, research questions, research purposes, research significances, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

Discourse is the use of language in speech and writing in order to produce meaning; language that is studied, usually in order to see how the different parts of a text are connected (*Oxford English Dictionary*, 2024). Discourse also can be defined as the study of language use in social contexts, specifically in relation to interactions or conversations between two or more individuals. It is generally connected to a term that is longer than a sentence (Schiffrin, 1987). This could be seen as an assertion that Discourse are a specific element of discourse that appear in an utterance during communication activities. In the conversation, there is particular elements of discourse that can be found in an utterance that is a Discourse Markers.

Discourse Markers is a word or phrase that organizes spoken language (*Oxford English Dictionary*, 2024). Discourse Markers also can be defined as linguistic aspects that can indicate the structure and organization of discourse or conversation (Amalia & Heryono, 2024). In addition to starting a conversations, Discourse Markers also have a pragmatic meaning in an utterance (Brinton, 1996). Thus, as the organizer of the flow and structure of a discourse, it may be seen as a claim that Discourse Markers help the speaker will be able to enhance and better control the flow of their speech.

Discourser marker are the important elements that cannot be separated in daily communication activities (Priyono & Rofiq, 2021). It can be used to initiate a discourse, shift or change topics, or to quibble while thinking to continue what someone to convey their thoughts. Discourse Markers do not carry significant or substantial meaning or change the meaning of sentences, but rather support the function of grammar by seamlessly connecting ideas in spoken or written form (Schiffrin, 1987). It also can be interpreted as a class of lexical expressions taken from the categories of prepositional phrases, adverbs, and syntactic conjunctions (Fraser, 1999).

In daily interaction, discourse marker often manifest in different form, both in the form of words or form of phrases such as “*umm*,” “*yeah*,” “*I mean*,” “*oh*,” “*uh*,” “*well*”, and “*I think*” (Vanderbauwhede, 2021). Thus, language use in social circumstances, and specifically speaker interaction or dialogue, is also a focus of discourse analysis. Discourse analysis aims to investigate how language is organized above the phrase or clause, and hence to examine higher linguistic entities, such written texts or conversational interactions (Stubbs, 1991). Therefore, Discourse Markers have the significant role in achieving the goals of social communication both in written forms and spoken forms.

Discourse Markers have typically been given more weight on humor (Schwarz, 2009). This is in line with Amalia & Heryono’s point of view that Discourse markers can be essential for helping people understand and enjoy humor in different languages (Amalia & Heryono, 2024). The effective use of Discourse Markers is essential to creating premises and punchlines that are characterized by simple climaxes that elicit laughter. As stated also by Morozova (2019) linguistic elements including Discourse Markers fill an essential part in the creative process of creating premises and punchlines as humor markers.

Humor defines as the quality in something that makes it funny (*Oxford English Dictionary*, 2024). Amusement and funniness are components of humor, which can manifest itself in both speech and behaviour (Attardo, 1994). From those amusement, humor creating or producing a response like laughter. The laughter as result from the interaction is filled with amusing topics (Schwarz, 2009). Humor also not only used for comforting someone from the sadness, but also conveying a message or desire. Humor has a function to awake a consciousness of someone to see a different perspective. In addition to encouraging tolerance, entertaining, relieving stress levels, and helping people perceive certain issues, humor also enables people to view situations from various vantage points. Thus, humor has an essential aspect of people’s lives by adding some interesting feature in communication such as feeling of pleasant, changing the mood of the person, soothing a sad heart, and make a way to a happy life (Budiana, 2023).

Currently, there is a new kind of comedy that can be performed by one person which has gained popular in Indonesia, that is stand-up comedy. Stand-up comedy can be described as aesthetic performance that create laughter and also can bring comfort and joyful to the audience (Adekunle, 2020). The performer is often referred to as a

comic, stand-up comic, or simply a comedian (Kawalec, 2020). During a stand-up comedy performance, unlike humor on TV or in movies which features pre-recorded laughs or studio editing, comedian kill or bomb in real time and shares their humorous through stories or short jokes, commonly known as "bits," as well as a monologue, routine, or act consisting of one-liners (Ma, 2020). In stand-up comedy, the main components to support the comedian in the performance stage are the material and joke technique. The material and joke technique must be prepared by the comedian using a particular linguistics features to elicit laughter from the audience. The comedian also not only prepares the material to deliver their humor, but also delivers it with a combination of joke technique (Brodie, 2020).

One of the comedians who delivers humor material well through stand-up comedy is Pandji Pragiwaksono. Pandji is a figure who plays a big role in boosting stand-up comedy in Indonesia. He is the first comedian to hold a stand-up comedy tour in many cities in Indonesia and abroad, thus earning the nickname "Mr. World Tour". One of the stand-up comedy shows that displays excellent performance with complex material that is arranged as a whole as one unit by Pandji Pragiwaksono is the stand-up comedy special show entitled "Hiduplah Indonesia Maya" which was held at the Ciputra Artpreneur Theater on November 30, 2019 (Sudarsono & Pukan, 2022).

In addition, in 2017 Pandji started his new career as a comedian in America, more precisely in New York. Pandji participated in many stand-up comedies shows in New York bars. Pandji consistently presents material about Indonesian culture, where since the beginning of his career he has always presented material on the theme of Indonesian culture. The material presented by Pandji with the theme of Indonesian culture as part of an Asian country, is very different from the cultural situation in America which is a western culture. Thus, the researcher assumes that Pandji Pragiwaksono has a very complex complexity in accumulating all his material into one form of performance. This challenge certainly requires an effective strategy for a comedian to be able to present the special show.

Discourse markers have been extensively explored in numerous academic studies. Previous researchers have enthusiastically undertaken various analyses of discourse markers, contributing valuable insights to the field. Some of the study on discourse markers in spoken discourse has been undertaken by (Priyono & Rofiq, 2021). The goal of their study was to determine the linguistic components of humor genre utterances in stand-up comedy, as exemplified by one of the most significant

comedians, Trevor Noah. According to this study, a variety of discourse markers, including “*ah*”, “*and*”, “*like*”, “*yeah*”, “*alright*”, “*then*”, “*huh*”, “*well*”, “*yes/no*”, and “*I know/knew*”, are utilized in stand-up comedy. In addition, all of those discourse markers have diverse roles, and sometimes one discourse marker fulfills more than one pragmatic functions.

Another study on discourse markers in spoken discourse has been undertaken by (Amalia & Heryono, 2024). Their study explores the complex roles that discourse markers (DMs) play as humorous mediators in stand-up comedy by Ricky Gervais. It investigates how well they mesh with theories of humor and how they affect the delivery of punchlines in stand-up comedy. According to the research, DM frequently made appearances in the show's punchlines. In the incongruity area, he scored a noteworthy 46%, which helped and amplified the punchlines. Finally, cultural variations in how DMs are used in stand-up comedy within each society may indicate homogeneity or uniqueness. The function of Discourse Markers also studied by (Subekti & Santi, 2019). Their study looks at direct messages (DMs) from a few well-known YouTube videos that were chosen based on how many subscribers they had. The results showed that throughout the videos, the employment of DMs like (occurred 68 times), just (56 times), and really (36 times) was most common when it came to DMs acting as clarifying Discourse Activity indicators. The next trends were DMs in the form of Message Relationship markers, which were used 105 times and served as a means of elaboration and presentation of parallelism.

From the previous studies that have been mentioned, the difference between this study and the previous studies is that this study emphasizes the relationship between the use of discourse markers in humor material which used by the comedian in creating humor in the stand-up comedy show. In addition, another differences between this study and the previous studies is in the theory and the object. The theories that used in this study are Brinton's theory of Discourse Markers which is to identify the categories and functions of Discourse Markers and Schwarz's theory of Humor which is used to identify the joke technique that used by the comedian in his stand-up comedy show.

It is found that the theories that used in this research has an urgency to be researched. Interestingly, Humor in stand-up comedy show has not been studied much before and even though the used of Discourse Markers has been widely research, the research of Discourse Markers mostly use the formal speech as the object of the studies. In addition, the object that used in this study is Pandji Pragiwaksono which

know as a comedian that plays a big role in boosting stand-up comedy in Indonesia and the first comedian to hold a stand-up comedy in America, which makes his stand-up comedy show has a complex humor material.

Therefore, based on this background, this research is analysing in depth the discourse markers and the joke technique by Pandji Pragiwaksono in creating humor material for his stand-up comedy show in America, through Schwarz's theory of Joke Technique and Brinton's theory of Discourse Markers. As the result, the title of this study is “Discourse Markers of Humor in Pandji Pragiwaksono’s America Stand Up Comedy Show”.

1.2 Research Question

From the background of the research above, the questions of the research that is revealed in this research can be stated, as follows:

1. What are the categories and functions of Discourse Markers utilized by the comedian in creating humor?
2. How does the comedian implement the functions of Discourse Marker and Joke Technique in creating humor?

1.3 Research Objective

According to how the research question was formulated above, the research is aims:

1. To define the categories and functions of Discourse Markers utilized by the comedian in creating humor.
2. To explain how the comedian, implement the functions of Discourse Marker and Joke Technique in creating humor.

1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, this research is useful for the reader to raise their knowledge about Pragmatics, Discourse Marker, Humor, and also Stand-Up Comedy. This is because, there are a numerous theory that contain in this research. Practically, the result of this research is able to give numerous motivations for other researchers that interest to do research about discourse markers. Other researcher also able to

use this research as their reference whether they are interest to do the research about discourse markers.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Brief definition of important terms used within research are discussed as follows:

1. Pragmatics is a linguistic field that investigates the correlation between contextual meaning and speech, by analyze the situational context (Verschueren, 1995). It can be defined as well as the study of the relationship between language and context, which is the foundation for clarifying and comprehending language, where a sentence or utterance of language needs knowledge beyond the context and meaning of the word. Pragmatic analysis is employed in this study to investigate the meaning of speech using discourse markers and the context of humor.
2. Discourse Markers can be interpreted as a class of lexical expressions taken from the categories of prepositional phrases, adverbs, and syntactic conjunctions (Fraser, 1999). It is also can be called as a sequentially dependent element that bracket units of talk. In this research, Discourse Markers indicate as words as phrase where it can't stand alone which features the control of speech flow.
3. Humor also can be describes as a linguistic feature combined with jokes (Schwarz, 2009). It also can be defined as a Pragmatics phenomenon based on as incongruity, which it needs to be puzzle out in order triggering a comic or humor effect. In this research, humor is an impulse that triggering laughter and amusement of the audience.
4. Stand-Up Comedy can be described as aesthetic performance that creates laughter and also can bring comfort and joyful to the audience (Adekunle, 2020). The performer is often referred to as a comic, stand-up comic, or simply a comedian. During a stand-up comedy performance, the comedian bomb in real time and shares their humorous through stories or short jokes. In this research, stand-up comedy is a comedian stand-up on stage performance and tells their funny jokes.
5. Pandji Pragiwaksono is a figure who plays a big role in raising stand-up comedy in Indonesia. (Sudarsono & Pukan, 2022). He is the first comedian

to hold a stand-up comedy tour in many cities in Indonesia and abroad, thus earning the nickname "Mr. World Tour". In this research, Pandji Pragiwaksono is one of the stand-up comedians from Indonesia that delivers the humor material well through stand-up comedy shows.

