
The Features of Spontaneous Speech in Stand-Up Comedy

A Case Study of Raditya Dika Performance in StandUpNite Comedy

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Abstract

Joke is something that is appreciated, enjoyed, and shared by all people. Although joke deals with funny stories or funny thoughts, it has an interesting part that is how to create something funny. This study attempts to analyze the performance of Raditya Dika in Stand Up Nite comedy by classifying the features of spontaneous speech in some features in stand-up comedy performed by Raditya Dika such as fillers, ellipsis, redundancy, back-tracking, and sympathetic of circularity. Aimed to be a qualitative study, the data are collected by downloading video of stand-up comedy by Raditya Dika then transcribed in written data to disclose the spontaneous words in the jokes. In analyzing data, the writer uses The Feature of Spontaneous Speech that proposed by Ross (2005). This study examines the use of each of the spontaneous features and reveals what features of spontaneous speech that is mostly used by Raditya Dika. The finding showed that in the language of stand-up comedy are found the words included in filler, ellipsis, redundancy, back-tracking and sympathetic circularity. It was also discovered that the comedian, in this case Raditya Dika, often applies the feature of sympathetic circularity in his speech.

Keywords: features of spontaneous speech, language of humor, stand-up comedy

Introduction

Humor is one kind a forms of conversation which contains things that are funny in everyday life. When talking to other people, we often talk about things that are funny on the sidelines of the talks. At certain moments when we talk to other people, we are going to talk about funny topics in order to entertain the listener or just making conversation more interesting and not boring. Raskin (1985) states that in every day funny situations, funny stories, and even funny thoughts happen to virtually everybody. And laughter can be heard frequently in most societies even though its exact meaning may differ from occasion to occasion and from culture to culture.

Humor is anything done or said purposefully or inadvertently, that is found to be comical or amusing and jokes are defined as anything done or said to deliberately provoke amusement, jokes are also context free and self-contained in the sense that they can be told in many conversational contexts, stated by Long and Graesser (1988).

In our everyday life, jokes appear in written texts and spoken words. There are several types of spoken humor that are broadcast on radio and television. The broadcast humor can be pre-recorded, spontaneous, or ad-libbed. Some jokes emphasize their amusing parts on the words play and some emphasize their amusing parts on ridicules, satire or other various laguages. It is apparently that the purpose of joke is to create laughter and the feeling of fun. Raskin (1985) states that joke is something that is appreciated, enjoyed, and shared by all people to be funny. Although joke deals with funny stories or funny thoughts, it has an interesting part that is how it makes something funny.

Joke may appear in various forms, today there are a lot of forms of comedy in Indonesia, and one of them is stand-up comedy. In Indonesia stand-up comedy has become a recent phenomenon, as the new form of delivering joke that usually many of jokes in Indonesia performed in group but now there is a joke that performed by monologue or just one person. Delivering joke by individual is quiet hard because he/she is responsible for the successful of their own joke, and the important also is how

the individual able to development some topics to create amusement for the audience then elicit laughter, it need hard skill and good ability for person who want become a comedian of stand-up comedy, however the comedian must have a good sense of humor due to the joke not become bored and flat.

Television in modern era is as the main source of verbal entertainment. A lot of contemporary humor is spoken more likely to watch in television through programs of comedy than read and listen it. Television has a range of types of scripted humor, such a series of sitcom or situation comedies, and sketches. There are significant differences between scripted humor and stand-up comedy. The material of scripted humor can be edited out. Ross (2005) says in stand-up comedy, although the material may be scripted and rehearsed, the language must seem spontaneous. She adds that broadcast humor is not 'live' in the way that stand-up comedy is, and this aspect affects the language of stand-up comedy in many ways.

Stand-up comedy has many functions, however it contains with funny stories to create laughter, or to entertain the audience, but also it used as a medium to criticize or to satirize. Furthermore joke may work better than a harsh word or a direct critic, because sometimes direct words cannot be expressed in a certain situation. According to Wilson as cited by Schwarz (2010) also asserts that ridicule serves to portray social criticism or persuasion when the speakers want to "humiliate or discredit" their opponent in front of the rest of the audience. Sometimes to critic someone or certain object without using direct words, we often use ridicule topic in the sense of satire then laughing them through the joke. Generally, jokes or humorous are created to entertain people and used many occasions.

As the significant of the study the researcher investigate the thesis that was conducted by Sari (2012), she studied that entitled humor dalam stand-up comedy oleh Raditya Dika. In her research she described the types of speech acts, the application of the principle of cooperation, and maxim deviation. She also explained the type and function of his humor. In her research appears there is limited to describe about the effect of live situation that provide the language of spontaneous. In this study as the object is stand-up comedy of Raditya Dika. He is one of the famous comedians in modern era, and has a commitment with comedy as his main profession it looks by numerous humorous books, films, short films and stand-up comedy also become his part of that profession. The researcher will use different tool to analyze the stand-up comedy of Raditya Dika by applying the features of spontaneous speech proposed by Ross (2005) as the features of speech as would occur in unscripted, informal talk. The book *Language of Humor* is very excellent to be a reference for investigating some languages especially relate to language of humor.

And this study will more focus on the features of spontaneous speech created in stand-up comedy. The features are consists of fillers, ellipsis, redundancy, back-tracking and sympathetic circularity.

Methodology

Method is the important tools for the researcher to conduct a research. One of the measurements for correctness of a study will be depend from the method that they used. They need to use appropriate method to collect the data, then to analyze from that data to get the final result of the research. For this study the researcher uses qualitative approach as the tool. The data will not deal with numeric data, but by qualitative approach the data will be descriptive in analysis, it emphasizes on description. According to Bodgan (1982), qualitative method is a research procedure which observes the data in a form of written and/ or spoken words from people and also includes their behavior. From the definition above, this study is going to describe the language that Raditya used in his way to deliver joke by spoken humor.

The researcher uses internet as media to search the episode of stand-up comedy in Indonesia. As the data the researcher downloads some episodes of Raditya when performed stand-up comedy. In this study the researcher has already chosen the video that was uploaded by account of Standupcomedyindo's channel. Now they had uploaded videos of stand-up comedy is about 88 videos. Standupcomedyindo is an account in youtube which has huge contribution in promoting the development of stand-up comedy in Indonesia by sharing many videos in many occasions and events.

The data for this study also taken from video that uploaded by Standupcomedyindo, the first video is uploaded in July 16, 2011 the 1st episode of #StandUpNite at July 13, 2011. #StandUpNite is a showcase of Jakarta-based Indonesian stand-up comedian. This event is held by some comedians like Ernest Prakarsa, Panji and any other comedians. The video has been viewed about 2.391.638 viewers, it become the most viewed video of Raditya's performance in stand-up comedy.

Features of spontaneous speech

Spontaneous speech is the features of speech that would occur in unscripted and informal talk. However, in comedy the use of language must seem spontaneous though it may be rehearsed and scripted before. As well as use of colloquialism, there will be more fillers, like 'short of', ellipsis is a shortened forms of words, redundancy and back tracking as the repetition of words and sympathetic circularity, phrases like 'isn't that right?' addressed to listener. (Ross, 2005)

Filler

Fillers is one of the features of spontaneous speech. Filler is words or sounds that literally fill in the pauses in spoken language. Filler in spontaneous speech do not carry conventional meaning but allow time to think. For example is speech like 'er', 'sort of'. Filler is usually happened in the beginning of the sentence, it allows time to think for comedian gaining idea and preparing the material to perform.

In her book Ross identifies the feature of spontaneous in stand-up comedy of Lennie Henry, as the character of Delbert Wilkins.

I went to this club, **right**, and the bouncer on the door was typical, **you know**, big guy- he had 'hate' tattooed on one fist and 'fist' tattooed on the other fist.

Example above have classifies fillers in the words 'right' and 'you know'. It seems that 'right' and 'you know' here allows pause for a while to connect between words in the sentence before he continues his jokes.

That's how slick my hair was, guy- I was feelin' mean- I was feelin' **so** mean I was refusing to lend money to myself.

The word 'so' here classified as filler. He apparently re-emphasize what he is talking about by using the conjunction 'so'.

Ellipsis

Another feature of spontaneous speech is ellipsis. Ellipsis refers to the omission of part of a structure. It is normally used for reason of economy. In comedy it also has meaning as a shortened form of words for example 'cos' and 'feelin' in Lennie Henry speech, as the character of Delbert Wilkins.

'**cos** I'm from the Brixton posse, right? My hair was slicked back

The word 'cos' as a shortened form from because, because effect of spontaneous speech it normally used by comedian to short some words inadvertently.

I was **feelin'** so mean I was refusing to lend money to myself

The word 'feelin' is the shortened of word 'feeling'.

It is often used by comedian as one of the strategy using ellipsis, even though some occur unconsciously when contracting some words . As the effect of spontaneous, they have to talk directly without any more time to think then it makes some words will be contracted.

Redundancy

Another feature of spontaneous speech is redundancy. In spontaneous comedian tends to repeat his statement in a certain condition. Ross (2005) states that redundancy is feature where items in the speech are repeated even though this is normally unnecessary. For example, 'The book, that book I was reading...'

She gives example of speech from Lennie Henry,

That's how slick my hair was, guy, I was feelin' mean, I was feelin' so mean I was refusing to lend money to myself. That's how mean I was feelin', guy.

Complete and utter hassle from the police, every single day.

In the speech there are some redundancies words such as, 'guy, I was feelin' mean', 'complete and utter', 'every single'.

Back-tracking

In delivering joke sometimes because of live situation, the comedian repeat what they've said in order to correct if any wrong decision or improving the materials to be better and correct. Ross (2005) examines back-tracking is a feature of spontaneous speech where an utterance is repeated in order to improve or correct the speech.

Back tracking in other way is the various ways in which utterances are reworked in the act of speaking them. Sometimes when an utterance is begun, before unfinished immediately replaced by something else. Montgomery (2007) explains that sometimes what has just been said comes under erasure by the speaker and is explicitly corrected.

Sympathetic circularity

In performing joke one of the important things is the comedian able to keep the attention from the audience. Schwarz (2010) states when the comedian deliver joke they have to allow the audience to follow the comedian's train of thought.

One of the features which used by comedian is sympathetic circularity. Sympathetic circularity is one of spontaneous feature in speech, when the speaker using some expressions like 'You know what I mean?' (Ross, 2005, p.113).

She gives example of Sympathetic circularity from Lennie Henry, as the character of Delbert Wilkins.

I went to this club, **right**, and the bouncer on the door was typical, **you know**, big guy he had 'hate' tattooed on one fist and 'fist' tattooed on the other fist. I walked towards him, I knew no fear, **you know what I mean?**

In data above, some words are categorized as sympathetic circularity such as: 'right', 'you know', and 'you know what I mean?'.

Montgomery (2007) examines sympathetic circularity allow the speaker to invite the listener to assume the speaker's point of view. This features can be typified by expressions such as 'like', 'you know', 'sort of', 'ain't it', 'that sort of thing'. It has a function to share understanding which makes absolute explicitness unnecessary. Here example of symphatetic circularity,

I try and get them to do the things **you know** but, **you know** they sort of go their own way, **you know**.

Application of Spontaneous Features in Stand-up Comedy by Raditya Dika

Below are examples and finding of spontaneous features which occur in stand-up comedy performed by Raditya Dika ;

EXAMPLE 1

Selamat malam teman-teman semuanya, e, nama saya Raditya Dika. Dan saya hari ini akan mencoba untuk berbicara di depan teman-teman, kalian semua.

Tadi, Pandji sempat cerita soal band-band, kalo gue paling nggak ngerti sama Smash, terus terang. Pertama kali gua ngeliat Smash, ada 7 orang laki-laki, ya, semi laki-laki ya, semi laki-laki. Dia nyanyi-nyanyi, "kenapa hatiku cenat-cenut tiap ada kamu?". Loe jangan-jangan hepatitis, gitu guapikir. Kenapa ginjalku berdarah? Kenapa paru-paruku basah? Gua nggak tahu! Gua nggak tahu, kenapa .

The first sample of data indicates some features of spontaneous speech in the joke. Back-tracking is found in the second statement.

Dan saya hari ini akan mencoba untuk berbicara di depan teman-teman, kalian semua.

In first session of his performance, he normally hesitates in pronouncing. In that sentence he emphasize his intention to talk to all audience in the room. It doesn't refer to 'your friends' rather than 'all of you'. In first sentence there is filler when he says 'e' before he introduces himself.

In the next sentence there are both of redundancy and also back-tracking.

Pertama kali gua ngeliat Smash, ada 7 orang laki-laki, **ya**, semi laki-laki **ya**, semi laki-laki.

That sentences is categorized as back-tracking as he improves 'there are seven men' to they are semi-males. Also there is redundancy when he reveals '*semi laki-laki*' twice in sequent. Among them, he put fillers 'ya'

EXAMPLE 2

Dan, yang paling gua sebelin ya, baju mereka tu ada yang belahan dadanya sampek sini (pointed to chest.) . Ada yang lihat video clip-nya nggak? Kenapa hatiku cenat-cenut? Belahan dadanya sampek sini. (pointed to chest). Loe mau nyanyi apa mau menyusui, sebenarnya. Gua nggak tahu!

"Kenapa hatiku?" netek, netek, netek.

This sample reveals that the first sentence contains filler 'ya'. It is followed by sympathetic circularity when he says 'ada yang lihat video clip-nya nggak?', that sentence is intended to invite the listener to assume the speaker's point of view. In the last sentence there is redundancy by repeating the word 'netek' three times.

EXAMPLE 3

Di antara band-band Indonesia gua bersyukur Andika (the vocalist of music band.), ditangkap. Gua bersyukur banget, kenapa? Karena pas gua lihat sidangnya, ia akhirnya potong rambut. Selama ini kalau gua lihat Andika, rambutnya kemana-mana kayak helm SNI, **tahu nggak lo?** Kalau orang ngajak ngobrol ngetok dulu,

"Assalamu alaikum"

"**Nape?**"

"Andika ada?"

"Andika! Sebentar ya? Andika di sini. **Mo** ngomong apa sama Andika? Bentar ya."

"Mau minta sumbangan"

"Andika!"

Ada ada apa sama band-band Indonesia?

In the data above, there is an example of sympathetic circularity which is by declaring 'tahu nggak lo?'. He invites the audience to assume with what he says. The second features is ellipsis by shorten *nape* that means *why* from the word *kenapa*, and also a word *mo* that means *will* from the word *mau*.

EXAMPLE 4

Semua di Indonesia tuh aneh. Iklan di Indonesia aneh-aneh. Iklan shampoo semuanya sama: cewek cantik, rambutnya panjang, masuk kamar mandi, shampoo-an, bahagia, bahagia.

Gue kalo di rumah shampoo-an nggak pernah sebahagia itu gue. Gue kalo sampoo-an diem. Adek gue nggedor-nggedor:

"Abang, Cepetan!"

"Diem! Abang belum selesai! Bentar, abang bilas dulu".

The first features of spontaneous speech in the data is redundancy, he repeats the word *bahagia* which means happy two times sequently.

EXAMPLE 5

Iklan, iklan shampoo aneh semuanya. Yang paling aneh iklan shampoo yang paling baru, yang sekarang udah nggak ada, iklan Sunsilk. Gua bersyukur, gara-gara iklan itu gua takut pake shampoo. Iklannya kayak gimana? Iklannya kayak gini:

Cewek cantik, masuk kamar mandi, taruh shampoo di kepala, bahagia, bahagia. Tiba-tiba ada yang ngetok pintu kamar mandi, "tok...tok...tok...". Dia diem. Dia keluar kamar, dia buka pintu. Gua

yakin lo tahu iklannya. Dia buka pintu, ada siapa di depannya? Ada Ariel ‘Peterpan’. Tahu nggak iklannya?

Dia bilang gini, “Buka pintumu buat aku ya?” Ya kan? Terus dikasih kalung.

Gara-gara iklan itu, setiap kali gua di rumah shampoo-an pakek Sunsilk sendirian, ada yang ngetok pintu kamar, gua takut!. Gua takut!.

Lagi shampoo-an pakek Sunsilk, “tok...tok...tok...”.

“Itu Andika, bukan? Andika, jangan masuk dulu, Andika! Buka pintu gue sabunin, sabunin.

In the first sentence in this joke, apparently he hesitates to start speaking. Because of the hesitation he repeats *iklan* which means *advertisement* twice with a quick delay. The second features is symphatetic circularity, there are two examples of redundancy in the data above,

1. *Gua yakin lo tahu iklannya.*
2. *Dia buka pintu, ada siapa di depannya? Ada Ariel Peterpan. Tahu nggak iklannya?*

The symphatetic of circularities appear in sentence (1) and (2), both of them inviting the listener to assume in topic of the speaker says.

There also found some redundancies in the sentences. First he repeats the word *bahagia* which means happy twice. The second redundancy occurred when he pronounces twice the words *gua takut* which means *I’m afraid* and *sabunin* which means *to soap*. The last feature of spontaneous speech is filler in the sentence,

“Buka pintumu buat aku ya?” ya kan.

The word “ya kan” has function as filler before continuing his speaking.

The following table is the total number of features of spontaneous speech in stand-up comedy performances by Raditya Dika.

Features of Spontaneous Speech	The Number of Item
Filler	15
Ellipsis	17
Redundancy	24
Back-tracking	7
Symphatetic Circularity	26

Table 1 : the number of spontaneous speech in Raditya performances

The total number of spontaneous speech is 108

Based on the analysis of Raditya Dika’s performance, the writer found that Raditya Dika used all of the features of spontaneous speech in his comedy. The most significant occurrences number in his performance is the feature of symphatetic circularity.

As shown in the analysis, Raditya Dika mostly used the symphatetic circularity to deliberate his comedy. Sympathetic circularity used by the comedian to keep the intention from the audience. Raditya Dika is a famous comedian who uses his intelligent to present quality and creative joke. He can make the audience who saw him laugh out loud. By using the symphatetic circularity, it proves that one of the successful keys in stand-up comedy performance is the ability to maintain the focus of the audience to participate in his topic. Ross (2005) states that symphatetic circularity is one of spontaneous feature in speech, when the speaker using some expressions like ‘You know what I mean?’. Ross also identifies that on stand-up comedy performance, the example of some expression of the symphatetic feature are ‘right’ and ‘you know’. In Raditya performance, the writer found some expression of the symphatetic circularity using w-h question. The comedian asks the question by using w-h questions such as ‘apa’ (what), ‘kenapa’ (why), ‘siapa’ (who), ‘gimana’ (how), and ‘dimana’ (where). For example is in the words ‘*Di antara band-band Indonesia gua bersyukur Andika (the vocalist of a music band.), ditangkep. Gua bersyukur banget, kenapa? Karena pas gua lihat sidangnya, ia akhirnya potong rambut.*’. In this example, the comedian uses the question words ‘*kenapa*’ as the symphatetic circularity question. The use of w-h question is normally used by comedian to attract the audience to the topic that being discussed. In another words, the comedian

uses some expressions like 'tahu nggak' (you know what), 'tahu nggak lo' (do not you know), 'coba' (please), and the question tag 'ya kan' (right). For example is in the following, '*Selama ini kalau gua lihat Andika, rambutnya kemana-mana kayak helm SNI, tahu nggak lo?*' In this example, the comedian uses expression with '*tahu nggak lo*' to inquiry to the audience. Another expression uses the question tag such as in the word, *Dia bilang gini, "Buka pintumu buat aku ya?" Ya kan? Terus dikasih kalung*. In this expression, the comedian requests an approval with the question tag 'ya kan'. The question tags are also used by the comedian in some expression to engage the audience into his play.

The second most feature of spontaneous speech that used by Raditya Dika in his comedy is Redundancy. Ross (2005) states that redundancy is feature where items in the speech are repeated even though this is normally unnecessary. In his performance, Raditya Dika often adds unnecessary words which indicate he get the hesitation, loses the idea for a moment, slips in pronunciation, and sometimes give the emphasizing about what he said. For example, in this section the comedian argues '*Yang paling aneh tahu nggak apa? Gua yakin ya, Susan itu Psikopat. Gue yakin Susan itu psikopat, tahu nggak lo kenapa?*'. The sentence '*gua yakin ya, Susan itu Psikopat*' is uttered twice although it unnecessary to be repeated. The redundancy helps the comedian to prepare for what will be deliberated, keep the tempo of comedy, and as a restatement of what he said, and for the audience, it is functioned to ease in understanding what the comedian is talked about.

The third most feature of spontaneous speech that uttered by Dika is Ellipsis. Ross (2005) states ellipsis refers to the omission of part of a structure. It is normally used for reason of economy and, in spoken discourse, can create a sense of informality. The part is omitted with the ellipsis to create a casual and informal tone. In comedy, it also has meaning as a shortened form of words. In his performance, Raditya Dika omitted the part of some structures as the effect of live situation and spontaneous. It causes the words that he produced are unsystematic. Although the meaning was conveyed to the audience, the comedian was not able to avoid reducing some parts of the structure.

The fourth most feature of spontaneous speech that used by Raditya Dika is filler. Filler is words or sounds that literally fill in the pauses in spoken language. Ross (2005) states filler is words or sounds in spontaneous speech that does not carries the conventional meaning but give some time for the speaker to think. For example is speech like 'er', 'sort of'. (Ross, 2005, p:111). It can allow time to think, gaining idea and preparing the material to continue the performance. In the performance of Raditya Dika, he used some words that considered as the fillers, such the words like 'e/ee', 'ehh', 'ya', 'gitu', and 'apa namanya'. In his show, the fillers occurred in some moments like when he got the false starts, in repetitions, and hesitations. It is quite unique when he used the phrase '*apa namanya*' in the sentence '*Jadi ceritanya gua dulu, ee apa namanya, tinggal sama orang tua gua*'. In this example, he uses the word 'ee' as the filler and he adds another words '*apa namanya*' directly before conveying the proper words to continue his play. The phrase '*apa namanya*' filled between the sentences indicated that he hesitated and difficult to utter what he wants to say.

The less occurrences number in the Raditya Dika comedy is back-tracking. Ross (2005) states back-tracking is a feature of spontaneous speech where an utterance is repeated in order to correct or improve the speech. Ross also gives definition of the back-tracking is the repetition of words. In Raditya Dika performance, the less occurrences number is the back-tracking feature. It means that in delivering jokes, Raditya Dika infrequently correcting what he had said before. Stand-up comedy is having more risk of incorrect statement than another model of comedy, because the handle of self-responsibility, gets nervous in live act, and play role individually in the stage. But Raditya Dika with the little number of his correct the words, show that he is able to mastering his material well.

Conclusion

Stand-up comedy is a 'live' comedy that the material presented in front of a live audience. Though the material rehearsed and may be scripted but mistakes, gaffes, offensive material can't be edited-out. This aspect affects the language of stand-up comedy. The language that produced by the comedian is spontaneous, as uses colloquialism. Spontaneous is features of speech that would occur in unscripted, informal talk, in stand-up comedy that performed by Raditya Dika as use colloquialism

to deliver his joke also found spontaneous. Using feature of spontaneous speech, this study aims to find spontaneous speech used in stand-up comedy that performed by Raditya Dika.

The writer found all five features of spontaneous speech from the entire Raditya performed stand-up comedy. The findings of the data show that sympathetic circularity is the most spontaneous feature that occurs in Raditya performance. He uses sympathetic circularity to keep the intention from the audience, and to maintain the focus of the audience to participate in his play. When asking the question he uses w-h question and other words like tahu nggak, coba, ya kan.

In the redundancy, Raditya Dika adds unnecessary words which indicate he get hesitation, loses the idea for a moment, slips in pronunciation, and aometimes give the emphasizing about what he said. The redundancy helps the comedian to prepare for what will be deliberated, keep the tempo of comedy, and as a restatement of what he said, and for the audience, it is functioned to ease in understanding what the comedian is talked about.

In the third most feature of spontaneous speech, the writer found ellipsis in Raditya Dika performances. In his performance, Raditya Dika omitted the part of some structures as the effect of live situation and spontaneous. It causes the words that he produced are unsystematic. Although the meaning was conveyed to the audience, the comedian was not able to avoid reducing some parts of the structure.

The fourth most feature of spontaneous speech is filler. In the performance of Raditya Dika, he used some words that considered as the fillers, such the words like 'e/ee', 'ehh', 'ya', 'gitu', and 'apa namanya'. In his show, the fillers occurred in some moments like when he got the false starts, in repetitions, and hesitations.

In the last, the writer found the back-tracking as the less occurences number in the Raditya Dika comedy. The little number of his correct the words, show that he is able to mastering his material well. Though some comedian gets nervous in live act and must play role individually in the stage, but he able to handle well of himself.

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