



A Study of Sarcasm of TV Series *Friends*

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to find out 1) The types of sarcasm in TV Series *Friends*, and 2) The purpose of sarcasm in TV Series *Friends*. The data were analyzed in descriptive qualitative research. The data of this research were from the utterance of *Friends*' cast or character. The data were taken from all the words, phrases, clauses, sentences in *Friends* transcript which available on the internet. The result of this research showed that 1) there were four types of sarcasm are used by *Friends*' character, namely: like-prefixed sarcasm with a total number 9 utterances (21.4%), lexical sarcasm with a total number 11 utterances (26.2%), propositional

sarcasm with total 16 utterances (38.1%), and illocutionary 6 utterances (14.3%). 2) There were five purposes of sarcasm are used by *Friends*' character, namely: sophistication with a total number 19 utterances (45.2%), evaluation with a total number 5 utterances (11.9%), tool for politeness with a total 5 utterances (11.9%), the persuasive aspect with a total number 7 utterances (16.7%), retract ability with a total 1 utterance (2.4%) and group affiliation with a total number 5 utterances (11.9%).

Keywords:

Sarcasm, TV Show, Netflix, Friends

INTRODUCTION

Many people assume that the function of sarcasm is for insulting or being rude to others. Sarcasm is a type of irony that is regarded as a harsh and unfriendly expression because it is usually designed to cause pain (Cutting, 2002). Sarcasm is not negative, sarcasm can be used as a social function to change someone's behavior or opinion through a polite form of criticism (Pexman, 2004). Another positive side of sarcasm is a tool for politeness (Attardo 2001).

Sarcastic utterances appear in various circumstances like politics debates, social

media, and TV shows. In Political debate, sarcasm is used to aggressively attack the opponents. Sarcasm and irony have various advantages for people who use them, including greater memorability and the building of a self- image as a clever person who is aware of new events. Sarcasm and irony are used to criticize or hurt opponents by exposing beliefs that are unworthy of a sincere response, as well as to build in-group bonding by expressing shared opinions. (Natalia Anolaurelock 2016).

In the social media context, the use of sarcasm utterances mostly comes from Twitter. Gonzalez- Ibanez, Muresan, and Wacholder (2011) To identify posts tagged as reflecting sarcastic sentiment from those expressing positive and negative sentiment, researchers looked at both textual and pragmatic elements in Twitter conversations. Many individuals criticizing the government's decision through this platform by using hashtags (#) right after they deliver their word.

The use of sarcasm in the TV show is usually for being funny and it is proved by Attardo's theory about the purposes of sarcasm. One of them is Sophistication. Sarcasm as sophistication usually indicates a sense of humor, but it can also indicate the speaker's mood. Sarcasm demonstrates how a speaker may manage his emotions by using language. (2001:183). It also appears in various TV Series such as *The Office*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *The Modern Family*, and *Friends*.

Friends is a comedy television show about six people who live next to or near each other in New York and go through just about every life experience possible with one other, including love, marriage, children, heartbreaks, arguments, new jobs, job losses, and all kinds of drama. The show begins with each individual in their twenties and continues for ten years, from 1994 to 2004, as each character seeks happiness, career, and what it actually means to be a "friend." Friends is the all-time most popular TV show, with roughly 20 million viewers, and it is still available on Netflix.

Here's the example of sarcastic utterance in TV Series (*Friends*) :

Monica: So how you doing today? Did you sleep okay? Talk to Barry? I can't stop smiling.

Rachel: **I can see that. You look like you slept with a hanger in your mouth.**

This was the moment when Monica had such a great time with her crush Paul. She was just so happy in that moment while she talked with Rachel and asked about her condition. Rachel who was looked struggle with her life felt Monica was being exaggerated and said *I can see that. You look like you slept with a hanger in your mouth* right after Monica

said that she cannot stop smiling.

The utterance showed the propositional sarcasm. She (Rachel) said that Monica cannot stop smiling because she slept with a hanger in her mouth which actually did not mean the real circumstances but she referred to Monica with a very big smile and she also wanted to make fun of Monica.

The purpose of sarcasm in this utterance is sophistication as Rachel mentioned that Monica looked like slept with a hanger in her mouth yesterday after realized that Monica cannot stop smiling while talking with her. Sarcasm functions as sophistication show speakers' ability to play with a language as she used utterance *like a slept with a hanger in the mouth* to refer someone who cannot stop smiling.

Therefore in order to understand more about sarcasm, this research aim to find out the types and the purposes of sarcasm in TV Series *Friends* by doing this work by the title 'A Study of Sarcasm in TV Series *Friends*'.

Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a type of irony that is regarded a harsh and unfriendly expression because it is usually aimed to offend. (Cutting, 2002). Many people assume that the function of sarcasm is for insulting or being rude to others. Actually, sarcasm is not totally negative, sarcasm can be used as social function to change someone's behavior or opinion through a polite form of criticism (Pexman, 2004). Another positive side of sarcasm is tool for politeness (Attardo 2001).

Types of sarcasm

Camp (2011) says that there are 4 types of sarcasm, namely propositional, lexical, like-prefixed, and illocutionary sarcasm.

Propositional Sarcasm

Propositional sarcasm is a types of sarcasm which directly leads to intent other purpose of speaker and indented to 'satire'. Speakers will freely say inverted stuff that is not intended. However, in this case, the speaker's premise and design are actually the complete opposites.. Example : '*Max, I think you can achieve your dream as a model*'. The above example does not implicitly contain the element of 'satire'. But in these situation that Max is someone who is always eating all the time and did not manage his weight. The purpose of the statement is to insult by saying the opposite statement.

Lexical Sarcasm

Lexical sarcasm is one of the types which sounds most natural. It has a more natural appearance and clearly displays extreme statements that are typically associated with the normative scale.. The statements that contain lexical of sarcasm do speech acts with force. Example : *'If Max is an attractive guy, he'll not single for a years.'* This is an example of a sentence that includes positive terms such as "attractive guy." However, the remark is inextricably linked to the negative consequence that follows, namely, 'he will not be single for years.' This demonstrates that the speaker does not regard Max as an active individual. However, there is another reason for insulting him.

Like-Prefixed Sarcasm

Like-prefixed sarcasm is a type of sarcasm which close to propositional sarcasm, although in this sort of sarcasm there is the declarations with a declarative sentence. Like-prefixed sarcasm reveals a statement that is more clearly seen to refute by the speaker. Like-prefixed sarcasm implicates to form of meaning inversion specifically. As well as this type is more likely not to generate ambiguity. Example : *'It's such a beautiful day to start to work.'* In this situation, the speaker said that the weather was perfect to started his work, although the situation of the weather is actually so bad because it is rainy. Because it was reinforced by a contradicting scenario, the statement is clearer and easier to understand the content of said partner's sarcasm.

Illocutionary Sarcasm

Illocutionary sarcasm says the exact opposite of what the speaker intends to say. Illocutionary sarcasm encompasses all relevant implicature, including specific implicatures, in order for these statements to operate as an assessment of the current circumstance. Speech showing compassion, admiration, or praise, for example.

Example : *'Are you sure you're a professional footballer?'*

In this circumstances, a speaker inquired about his friends footballing skilled. However, the speakers do not pose serious questions about it, instead opting for parody. The speaker asks the question as a satirical response to his friends' footballing skilled.

The Purposes of Sarcasm

Attardo's theory (2002) about the purposes of sarcasm. There are six purposes, namely sophistication, evaluation, tool for politeness, persuasive aspect, retractability and group affiliation.

Group Affiliation

Sarcasm functions in Group Affiliation in two ways. First, it reflects an understatement about an outsider who does not fit the group's standard. Second, it draws attention to a group's boundaries by articulating the group's standards or values. (2001 : 183). For example, when you and a couple of friends having such a good conversation but one of them who is usually the funny one looks quiet. Everyone supposed to confused about him and said 'are you break up with your girlfriend recently?' This utterance prove the sarcasm as group affiliation.

Tool for Politeness

Despite the fact that sarcasm appears to be aggressive, it is acknowledged that sarcasm is less damaging to the listener's face than overt aggression. When a husband says to his wife, "I'll purchase some food so you don't have to cook today," it could suggest that his wife's food isn't tasty or that she can't cook well, so he prefers to get it from somewhere else..

Persuasive aspects

In three ways, sarcasm can be a compelling rhetorical strategy. Sarcasm, for starters, provides evidence that the assertion is true. Second, sarcasm is simpler to remember than a literal expression. Finally, sarcasm is a great teacher. (2001 ;184).

Retractibility

Sarcasm allows one to state something and its opposite at the same time (Barendonner, 1981).They can avoid responsibility for the falsehood he said.Resulting in an attitude that is not committed to what the speaker says directly in their minds (Attardo, 2001)

Evaluation

Attardo (2001) Sarcasm can mask the harmful effects of criticism it may emit at the same time that it muffles the positive benefits of praise it may convey. The goal of using sarcasm is tomuffle those two traits at the same time.

Sophistication

Sarcasm demonstrates the speaker's ability to manipulate language. Sarcasm in the context of sophistication usually refers to a sense of humor. or, in some situations, the mood of the speaker. Sarcasm demonstrates how a speaker may manage his emotions by using language.(2001 :183)

Television Sitcom

Sitcom is a mash-up of the words "situation comedy" and "comedy." Actcom (Action comedy), domcom (Domestic comedy), and dramedy (Dramatic comedy) are three categories of sitcoms mentioned by Taflinger (1996). According to Eddie Dyja (2004) Apart from soap operas, the sitcom aspires to offer a realistic version of the real world, albeit through a comic perspective. For all of these reasons, sitcoms are an important part of the media worth researching. You'll also get a good laugh. The term "sitcom" simply refers to a situational comedy. Because it takes a lot of time and space to construct characters and settings, as well as to develop a relationship with the viewer, sitcoms are a form that is only available on broadcasting; originating in the radio of the 1940s and coming to fruition on television in the 1950s with hits like *I Love Lucy* in the US and *Hancock's Half Hour* in Britain.

METHOD

This study focused on a thorough description of the forms and objectives of using sarcastic utterances in the TV Series *Friends*, it used a qualitative research method. the data were from the utterance which were collected from *Friends* transcripts. The sources of data in this study is the transcripts from 24 episodes. The utterances from all characters in these season were analyzed in order to obtain the data.

To collected the data the writer watched the TV Show's *Friends* in platform, Netflix and transcribed all the utterances. To analyzed the data the writer identified the utterances in the transcript of *Friends*, classified the types of sarcasm in TV Show's *Friends*, described the purposes of sarcasm in TV Show's *Friends* and Summarized the findings into result.

RESULTS

After collecting the data comprising of the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences from sarcastic utterances were classified into four types of sarcasm. From the 42 sarcastic utterances, there were 9 like- prefixed sarcasm, 11 lexical sarcasm, 16 propositional

sarcasm, and 6 illocutionary sarcasms respectively. The purpose of sarcasm was divided into sophistication, a tool for politeness, evaluation, retractability, persuasive aspect, and group affiliation. From the 42 sarcastic utterances, there were 19 for sophistication, 5 of evaluation, 5 tools for politeness, 7 are persuasive aspect, 1 is retractability, and 5 for group affiliation.

Table 1. Types of Sarcasm

No.	Types of Sarcasm	Quantity	Percentage
1.	Like-Prefixed Sarcasm	9	21.4 %
2.	Lexical Sarcasm	11	26.2 %
3.	Propositional Sarcasm	16	38.1 %
4.	Illocutionary Sarcasm	6	14.3 %
	Total	42	100%

From the table above, the percentage of the data were 38.1 % of propositional sarcasm, 26.2 % of lexical sarcasm, 21.4% of like-prefixed sarcasm and 14.3% of illocutionary sarcasm.

Table 2. The Purposes of Sarcasm

No.	Purposes of Sarcasm	Quantity	Percentage
1.	<i>Sophistication</i>	19	45.2%
2.	<i>Evaluation</i>	5	11.9%
3.	<i>Tool for Politeness</i>	5	11.9%
4.	<i>Persuasive Aspect</i>	7	16.7%
5	<i>Retractability</i>	1	2.4%
6	<i>Group affiliation</i>	5	11.9 %
		42	100%

From the table above, the percentage of the data was 45,2% of sophistication, 16,7 % of persuasive aspect, 11.9% evaluation, tool for politeness, and group affiliation respectively and 2.4 % retractability.

DISCUSSIONS

Datum 1

Monica: There's nothing to tell! He's just some guy I work with!

Joey: **C'mon, you're going out with the guy! There's gotta be something wrong with him!**

This scene when Monica told her friends (Joey, Phoebe, and Chandler) about the moment she went out with a guy and Joey responded *C'mon, you're going out with the guy! There's gotta be something wrong with him!* In this case, Joey obviously assumed there was something wrong with someone who dated Monica.

This utterance was Like-Prefixed types of sarcasm because Joey intended to make fun of Monica and also his response was not relevant with the fact that Monica did not tell yet the details about a guy she went with, so it was pretty clear he was trying to tease and to make fun of Monica because she always went out with the weird guy in her previous relationship with other men.

The sarcasm purpose in this response was Sophistication because he tried to make fun of Monica's choice by saying if there was a guy who wants to go out with Monica, there must be something wrong with himself. Everyone was really curious about Monica's new boyfriend.

Datum 2

[Time Lapse, Rachel is breathing into a paper bag.]

Monica: Just breathe, breathe... that's it. Just try to think of nice calm things...

Phoebe: (sings) Raindrops on roses and rabbits and kittens, (Rachel and Monica turn to look at her.) bluebells and sleighbells and- something with mittens... La la la la...

Rachel: **I'm all better now.**

The moment when Phoebe started to sing after Monica said *Just breathe, breathe... that's it. Just try to think of nice calm things.* This expression was to help Rachel but instead of making her happy, it made her more anxious. So Rachel calmly said that she felt better to make Phoebe stop to sing that weird song.

This utterance referred to propositional Sarcasm because Rachel indirectly said that Phoebe's effort was not working at all moreover it makes her get more anxious (Show in her face gesture towards Monica). Propositional sarcasm had a statement which was opposite to the real meaning.

Tool for politeness is used in a good way when you are so annoyed with something in particular so you just try to react in a good behavior to make it stop. It was really shown in this scene where Rachel got more anxious by Phoebe's help so she was just saying *I'm all better now* to make her (Phoebe) stop singing.

Datum 3

Ross: So Rachel, what're you, uh... what're you up to tonight?

Rachel: Well, I was kinda supposed to be headed for Aruba on my honeymoon, so nothing!

Ross: Right, you're not even getting your honeymoon, God... No, no, although, Aruba, this time of year... talk about your- (thinks) -big lizards... Anyway, if you don't feel like being alone tonight, Joey and Chandler are coming over to help me put together my new furniture.

Chandler: (deadpan) **Yes, and we're very excited about it.**

This was the moment when Ross was approached by his old crush (Rachel) and tried to get close with her by asking about her activity on that evening and he also told Rachel that their activities would be moving his new furniture and Chandler reacted really ironically by saying *Yes, and we're very excited about it*.

The data was included in the Like-Prefixed sarcasm because it was obvious that he hated it very much with the way he said it with a deadpan expression. Chandler and Joey were just trying to look cool in front of Monica. Like-prefixed sarcasm is used to show something that was not relevant to the real condition.

The purpose of sarcasm in this utterance was as Group Affiliation sarcasm because Chandler felt that he can do nothing about the fact that he and Joey were tried to help Ross in the evening and being ironic and pretend to feel happy about it by saying *Yes, and we're very excited about it*. Sarcasm as group affiliation has several functions like Sarcasm can create in group solidarity or feelings among members of a group and it can be used to express negative judgment towards others and exclude them as a group.

Datum 4

Monica: So how you doing today? Did you sleep okay? Talk to Barry? I can't stop smiling.

Rachel: **I can see that. You look like you slept with a hanger in your mouth.**

This was the moment when Monica had such a great time with her crush Paul. She

was just so happy in that moment while she talked with Rachel and asked about her condition. Rachel who was looked struggle with her life felt Monica was being exaggerated and said *I can see that. You look like you slept with a hanger in your mouth* right after Monica said that she cannot stop smiling.

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Datum 5

Monica: You ready?

Rachel: I don't think so.

Ross: C'mon, cut. Cut, cut, cut...

All: Cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, cut... (She cuts one of them and they cheer.)

All: Cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, cut, cut...

(She finishes cutting them up and they all cheer.)

Monica: Welcome to the real world! It sucks. You're gonna love it!

This was the scene when Rachel cut her credit card after she realized all her friends got a job and no longer got a money from their parents so everyone approached and supported her to cut her credit card off and started to find a job and get a money by herself and with big courage she finally made a huge decision for her life and everyone cheered her up. At the end Monica hugged her and said *Welcome to the real world! It sucks. You're gonna love it!*

The data showed in the lexical sarcasm because Monica said real world sucks and she gonna love it at the same time. This type of Sarcasm is natural and extreme at the same time. Monica was trying to support her best friend and encourage her to live in the real world by giving suggestion Rachel to cut off her Credit Card that was given by her father.

The data was persuasive aspect as Monica tried to support her best friend and also her roommate to stay strong in life as she congratulated her right after she finished cutting her credit cards off by saying *Welcome to the real world! It sucks. You're gonna love it!* Persuasive aspects can be used to make someone to do something.

CONCLUSIONS

This part discusses the result of data analysis of sarcasm on Tv Series Friends use the theory from Camp (2011) and Attardo (2001). This part stated and clarified the types and purposes of sarcasm in Netflix's Friends. After analyzing sarcastic utterances, this study founds 42 sarcastic utterances, each of which included in types of sarcasm and the purposes of sarcasm under the above theory.

In this type of sarcasm were 9 like-prefixed sarcasm, 11 lexical sarcasm, 16 propositional sarcasm, and 6 illocutionary sarcasms respectively. Based on the purpose of sarcasm, there were 19 sophistication, 5 evaluation, 5 tools for politeness, 7 persuasive aspects, 1 retractability, and 5 group affiliation.

This study found that types of propositional sarcasm are the most frequently used in season one and sophistication is the most used in terms of the purpose of sarcasm. This type of purpose was used by the cast of friends to play with language which could create a humor among them.

The study of sarcasm can be used as one of the references to enrich the knowledge in all aspects of life, especially in social media such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube. Everyone should try to apply sarcasm in many ways when they are communicating in social media to send or update information, such as captions, comments, status, etc because it could help them to increase the vocabulary. The readers hope sarcasm will be useful when the people want to use bilingualism when they want to make their utterance clearer, show their emotion on something, and intention of clarifying their speech.

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