

The Pragmatic Analysis of the American TV Series' Humorous Dialogues Based on the Perspective of Relevance Theory—Take the Example of the 2 Broken Girls

Xiao Tang^{1*} & Xin Zhang¹

¹ Suzhou Institute of Technology, Jiangsu University of Science and Technology, Zhang Jiagang, China

* Xiao Tang, E-mail: 643802793@qq.com

Abstract

In this paper, we analyze the pragmatic analysis of the humorous dialogues of American TV series. And based on the theory of relevance theory, this paper analyzes and studies the dialogue in the TV series “broken sisters”, which aims to improve the understanding of American TV series.

Keywords

pragmatic analysis, humorous dialogue, principle of cooperation, pragmatic premises, politeness theory

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1. Introduction

The ancient Greek researchers believed that there were four bodily fluids in the human body, which were blood, mucus, yellow bile and black Dan juice. The percentage difference of these four bodily fluids make a significant difference in the temperament and emotion formed by humans. It shows that humor has many meanings, such as jokes and stories, that can be used to describe emotions effectively. In the process of interpersonal communication, humor is the primary means. In certain circumstances, humor can effectively transform the interpersonal communication atmosphere and break the communication deadlock situation.

2. Overview of “2 Broken Girls”

The sisters, which was produced by Warner bros. Television company and officially broadcast in 2011. As a situation comedy, “2 Broken Girls” has received a lot of popularity among the public since its premiere. “2 Broken Girls” even got nominated for the Grammy in 2012, and was awarded the art director awards at the 2012 Grammy awards show. The story is set in a fast-food restaurant in the Brooklyn city of New York, where the two waitresses are Caroline and Max. Caroline’s family went

bankrupt, and Max's fate was very bumpy. Just because they worked in the same fast food restaurant, they become good friends because of the same character, and realize their cupcake dream together. In addition to the two female protagonists, the "2 Broken Girls" has many main characters: the fast-food restaurant owners Han lee, the cashier Earl, the chef Oleg.

3. Cooperative Principle and Humorous Effect

In 1975, American philosophers suggested that the guiding principle of human communication activity is cooperative principle. After analyzed the research on people's language communication activities, the researchers believed that in the process of interpersonal communication, the two parties need to follow certain principles to implement interpersonal communication goals. The principle of cooperation mainly consists of four parts, namely the quantity criterion, the quality criterion, the relation criterion and the method criterion. In terms of cooperation, people don't always follow the principle of cooperation in human relationships, in some cases people even violate the principle of cooperation to make a difference in terms of interaction and intentions.

3.1 *The Violation of the Quantity Criterion*

In the process of interpersonal communication, there are two ways to violate the quantity criterion which one is the information provided by one of the parties is limited, and the other one is the amount of information provided by both parties is more than the actual demand information of the session. For example, during the communication between Max and customer, Max provides the session information: what can I get you? He is in good company. Customer: I will have tea and Turkey club. In this scenario, all the staff members will be looking at a couple of customers in a fast-food restaurant. These customers relationship is mother and son. The boy was about seven years old, but the boy still breastfed. During the service, Max asked customers what they wanted, but the son was already drinking. Under normal circumstances, the waiter simply needs to ask the customers what they needs, but in this process, Max has made a point of saying that your son had already drinking the drink, and the amount of information that Max has given is far beyond the amount of information needed for the session to form a humorous conversation effect.

3.2 *The Violation of the Quality Criterion*

Quality criterion requires that in the process of interpersonal communication session the two sides are not allowed to say things that are false or there is not enough evidence to prove that. In order to create a sense of humor, during the communication process, the two parties often use a hyperbole and irony skill, and say some things that are contrary to the principles of quality, and cause a big difference between the content and the actual situation. For example, after the owner of the diner was communicating with her mother in Korean, Max and Caroline made fun of whether the boss had a girlfriend. The restaurant owner said that the conversation was not flirting. In fact it was an apology, and his mother was still angry about the fact that he had left home to go abroad. Max says, "why do you need to apologize? Your mother should have been most relaxed when she gave birth to you.

Because your mother coughed and you just went into the baseball glove”. The boss’s body is short, and Max described boss’s birth in an exaggeration way, which is against the quality of the code, but the audience can experience humor in the process.

3.3 The Violation of the Relationship Criterion

The relationship guidelines are based on conversations between both parties on the same topic. The two sides need to have the same communication intention and strictly forbidden to speak incoherently. However, during the communication between the two parties, one party will often use the other party’s discourse application skills to “deliberately” misinterpret the meaning of the other side which is violated the relationship criterion and cause he ambiguity in this conversation. But it also have the humorous effect. For example, Max asked customers “Are you ready to order?” The customer asked Max “What’s your special food in the fast food restaurant?” In the process, Max used the multiple meanings of the language used by customers. In the context of the fast food restaurant, the customer’s statement can be understood as a special dish, but Max deliberately made the customer’s asking specially. Therefore, Max said, according to my high school teacher’s standard, I am very ordinary, and nothing special. The audience is able to experience humor after they have learned about the humor.

3.4 The Violation of the Method Criterion

In the implementation process the method criterion have four main requirements, which are to avoid ambiguity, avoid obscure, concise and orderly. The violation of the relationship criterion mainly indicates that the communication between the two sides communicate with each other around the corner, which leads to the ambiguity of the other side of the conversation, and the humor is formed in this process. For example: after the fast food restaurant owner called, Caroline asked the boss if he was calling, or if he was a new girlfriend. The fast-food owner didn’t answer, and then Max said, “yeah, how can he love a woman on the phone?” It means that the owner of the fast food restaurant is making a pornographic phone call, but Max didn’t say directly, through the telephone charge way suggested, which was violate the method principles. But the process also creates a humorous effect.

4. Conclusion

This paper analyzes and studies the dialogue between the heroine of “2 Broken Girls” on the basis of the theory of relevance in the process of speech analysis. In the situation comedy of “2 Broken Girls”, the principle of cooperation will produce humorous effect after being violated, and the humorous dialogue of American TV series is understood from multiple levels.

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