

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the finding and the discussion based on the research problems.

#### 4.1 Finding

After collecting the data by transcribing the utterances on 4 episodes, the researcher found 71 utterances containing the flouting maxim from the character Ted Mosby. The data were categorized based on the theory of flouting maxim proposed by Grice. There were four kinds of maxim which were flouted in those TV series; those were Maxim of Quality, Maxim of Quantity, Maxim of Relation and Maxim of Manner.

The table below shows the number of the flouting of maxims and the most flouted maxim. It presents the flouting of maxims from the four episodes analyzed by the researcher.

**Table 4.1. Flouting of Maxims**

Flouting of Maxim	Episode			
	Big Days	Unfinished	Architect of Destruction	Natural History
Quality	√	√	√	√
Quantity	√	√	√	√
Relation	√	√	√	√
Manner	√	√	-	-

Notes: (√) Flouting occurred, (-) Flouting didn't occur

Maxims were flouted when the speaker did not obey the Conversation Maxims in the communication. Then, when the speaker said things which he or she believed to be false to the hearer, the speaker flout the Maxim of Quality. In this study the researcher found 42 utterances containing the flouting the Maxim of Quality.

The speaker flouted the Maxim of Quantity when the speaker gave too much or too little information than was actually needed by the hearer. In this study the researcher found 14 utterances containing the flouting the Maxim of Quantity.

Next, in this study the researcher also found 12 utterances containing the flouting of Maxim of Relation. The speaker flouted the Maxim of Relation when the speaker gave irrelevant contributions to the hearer in their conversation.

The last, the researcher also found only 3 utterances containing the flouting the Maxim of Manner. When the speaker gave contributions which might have more than one meaning, means, the speaker flouted the Maxim of Manner.

#### **4.1.1 The Analysis of Flouting Maxim of Quality**

In this analysis, the explanation is provides about how the utterances being flouted the Maxim of Quality and how those flouting could cause humorous effect and made the audiences laughed.

The flouting of Maxim of Quality was flouted most often and it could cause humorous effect because the character lied about something. In this case, the

character was found out to lie by the audience because there were some support evidences such as the profile of character. The example below taken from the episode “Architect of Destruction” would show how the character flouted the Maxim of Quality by lying. In the episode “Architect of Destruction”, Ted Mosby met a woman named Zoey who had the same interests in the old building. But Zoey did not know yet that Ted Mosby was working with GNB, which wanted to demolish The Arcadian; building championed by Zoey to be a landmark.

Data 1:

**Setting** : In front of The Arcadian  
**Situation** : Ted Mosby met Zoey for the first time  
**Participants** : Ted Mosby and Zoey

Zoey : So what do you do, Ted?  
 Ted : I’m a veterinarian. \*

Ted flouted the Maxim of Quality in his sentences, “I’m a veterinarian”. By saying like that, he was lying to Zoey that he was a veterinarian. In fact, Ted was an architect who worked for GNB to demolish The Arcadian and rebuild it into a new headquarters for GNB. The audiences laughed at this dialogue because they knew that Ted lie Zoey by introducing himself as a veterinarian. Ted did it because he was too afraid to tell the truth that he was on the opposite side of a woman who had appealed to him at the first time they met.

The humorous effect of the flouting of Maxim of Quality could also occur when the character is being ironical. The following example was taken from the episode “Natural History” which was about Ted met with Zoey again in the Natural History Museum. Surprisingly, Zoey also introduced her husband to Ted.

Data 2:

**Setting** : In Natural History Museum

**Situation** : Zoey introduced her husband to Ted

**Participant** : Ted Mosby, Zoey and Captain

Captain : Darling, there you are.

Zoey : Hi.

Captain : Hi.

Zoey : Ted, this is my husband.

Ted : Yeah, old stuff's great. \*

The utterances of Ted flouted the Maxim of Quality because the utterances implied an irony. Ted said "Yeah, old stuff's great" because he wanted to mock Zoey who had an old husband. The audiences laughed after these words because the audience realized that Zoey loved the old stuff, in this case was not only the old building such as The Arcadian but also she married an old man, who was more suitable to be her father.

Besides lying and being ironical, when the character implied a sarcastic sentence could be humorous too. The following example was also taken from the episode "Natural History". In this case, Ted was being sarcastic because he wanted to convince Zoey that he also had same opinion about The Arcadian.

Data 3:

**Setting** : In Natural History Museum

**Situation** : Ted and Zoey talk about The Arcadian privately

**Participants** : Ted Mosby and Zoey

Zoey : I hate boats, Ted. I do, I hate 'em. I can't be on them. I can't be near them. I can't even think about them without getting seasick. You want to know why I want to save that building? Because when I look up The Arcadian, I see something big and solid and right now everything else in my life just feels like I'm on a boat. I know it's crazy to care that much about a building.

Ted : It's not crazy at all. I'm the same way. Look, Zoey, The Arcadian should be a landmark, it should. The lion head stonework is iconic. I hate that we have to tear it down. I hate working for GNB. They're a bunch of wieners and gonads.\*

Ted utterance was totally flouted the Maxim of Quality because he implied a sarcastic sentence. He mocked all the people in GNB as a bunch of wieners and gonads. The audiences laughed at that utterances because it presented how much he hated the GNB then made him called them with a dirty words like that.

The next example of flouting Maxim of Quality was taken from episode "Architect of Destruction". The flouting was done by Ted with gave a denying statement to other characters.

Data 4:

**Setting** : In a bar

**Emotion** : Ted suddenly changes his decision to work with GNB

**Participants** : Ted Mosby and the gang

Barney : I still don't get this. Why, all of a sudden, out of nowhere, do you want to ruin... Wait a minute. \* Who's the girl? \*

Robin : Duh.

All : Of course there's a girl

Ted : What? I... There's no g-girl. Why would you even... Her name is Zoey.\*

Ted utterance flouted the Maxim of Quality because he denied his statement before about a girl who made him changed his decision to work with GNB again.

The audiences laughed it because the audience didn't know that what Barney said was true, that Ted changed his decision because a girl.

The last example of flouting of Maxim of Quality was the flouted that occur when the character made an exaggerate statement about something which was not fully right. The utterance was taken from the episode "Natural History", when the character and the gang were invited to come to the Natural History Museum.

Data 5:

**Setting** : In the car  
**Situation** : The gang is on the way to the Natural History Museum

**Participants** : Ted Mosby and the gang

Marshall : Look at us, huh? In tuxedos? Can you imagine if our college selves saw us like this?  
 Ted : They'd pelt us with their Phish bootlegs. \*

Ted's statement above flouted Maxim of Quality because Ted gave a respond to Marshall by using an exaggerate statement. Ted statement was too exaggerated to describe what their friends did when they saw Marshall and Ted wore tuxedos. The audiences laughed because they realized that Ted made an exaggerate statement which was in reality was not bound to happen.

#### 4.1.2 The Analysis of Flouting Maxim of Quantity

In this analysis, the explanation is provides about how the utterances being flouted the Maxim of Quantity and how those flouting could cause humorous effect and made the audiences laughed.

In four episodes which were analyzed by the researcher, there were 14 utterances from the character Ted which flouted the Maxim of Quantity. Flouting

the Maxim of Quantity might occur when the character gave less information or too many information in his conversations with other characters.

The first example of the flouting Maxim of Quantity was caused by giving too much information. The example was taken from the episode "Big Days" which there was scene when Ted talked with Cindy, the girl he dated once in past.

Data 6:

**Setting** : In a bar

**Situation** : Cindy apologizes to ted for the past

**Participants** : Ted Mosby and Cindy

Cindy : Thank you, Ted. After things didn't work out with us. I got really sad for a while. But then I realized, you're not what I wanted, Ted and I'm not what you wanted. I'm sorry I was such a jerk. I feel like I should make it up to you somehow. You know, buy you a beer or Yankees tickets, or ...

Ted : Or set me up with one of your friends. \* No, I'm kidding. That would be weird.

Cindy : No, it wouldn't.

Ted : It wouldn't, would it? \* Any one of those three. Whichever's easiest and right nearby. And not the beer. \*

The utterances of Ted 'Or set me up with one of your friends' and 'Any one of those three. Whichever's easiest and right nearby. And not the beer.' flouted the Maxim of Quantity because he gave too much information. The audiences laughed it because they knew what exactly Ted's want. He wanted Cindy would introduce him to Cindy's friend which was already observed by him since he sat in a bar. But, because he too shame to say directly what he wanted so, he gave too much information to Cindy.

The next example of flouting the Maxim of Quantity was taken from the episode “Unfinished”. And the utterances were taken from one scene when Barney unexpectedly came to the class where Ted was going to teach his students.

Data 7:

**Setting** : In a class  
**Situation** : Barney comes to Ted class  
**Participants** : Ted Mosby and Barney

Ted : What are you doing here? Oh, God! You're dating one of my students. \* It's Rachel, isn't it? Barney, I know she wears provocative sweaters, but she's 19! \* Now I'm gonna have to hear all about it, right? Go on, tell me every detail. \*

Barney : No, you pent-up old perv. \* I brought you a present. Recognize this?

Ted's utterances flouted Maxim of Quantity because he made too much statement. When Barney got into class, Ted immediately gave many statements and alleged that Barney wanted to date one of Ted students. The audiences laughed it because they know that Barney was someone who loved dating with many women, so, many statements which was made by Ted at the time was a reasonable thing for Ted because he worried about his student that would be tempted by Barney.

The other example of flouting the Maxim of Quantity was taken from the episode “Architect of Destruction”. In this episode the character Ted flouted the Maxim of Quantity by giving less information to other character. The flouting of the Maxim of Quantity occurred in the scene when Ted was in a conversation with Zoey who was doing demonstration in front of The Arcadian with other



demonstrators in order to save The Arcadian. Then, suddenly, the billboard with a photo of Ted hung above that building.

Data 8:

**Setting** : In front of The Arcadian

**Situation** : a billboard with a photo of Ted in it suddenly hanging above The Arcadian by the GNB

**Participants** : Ted Mosby, Zoey and a demonstrator (man).

Zoey : Ted, everything okay?

Ted : Yes.. Um.. Um.. \*

*Ted and Zoey sees a billboard with a photo of Ted in it suddenly hanging above The Arcadian by the GNB*

Zoey : You work for GNB?

*Zoey leaves Ted alone. Then a protester approached Ted.*

Man : Dude, why are you dressed like a wizard? \*

Ted : She was really hot, okay? \*

In the example above, Ted flouted the Maxim of Quantity because he gave less information to the man. So, the man still didn't know exactly the reason why Ted in that poster dressed like a wizard. Maybe, the man became more confused because he didn't know who was the girl who meant by Ted or how hot she was.

The audiences laughed it because they knew what exactly the reason why Ted dressed like that, that was because Zoey, the girl who was loved by Ted. Then, the audiences laughed it because they knew that reason why Ted only gave less information to the man because at that time Ted was in a panic condition. He couldn't tell about the whole reason why he dressed like that to the man because he felt confuse and didn't know what should he did to make Zoey didn't angry with him.

The last example was taken from episode “Big Days”. In this episode, Ted flouted Maxim of Quantity by giving an exaggerate statement too much in assessed a man who approached a woman who was Ted drill.

Data 9:

**Setting** : In a bar

**Situation** : Ted, Robin and Barney talk about a man

**Participants** : Ted Mosby and Robin

Robin : They're talking to a guy now.

Ted : What kind of guy? A cheesy guy or a cool guy?

Robin : Oh, a cheesy guy. Don't worry. \*

Ted : Oh, man! That guy is cool. \* His hair's all cool, he's got a cool belt. \*

In the example above, Ted flouted the Maxim of Quantity because he gave an exaggerate statement too much to Robin about the man who approached women who were they were talking the whole time. Ted assessed the man by using exaggerate statements, belts and even hair of the men were also assessed. The audiences laughed because they felt Ted was too exaggerated to assess the man, it was happened because Ted actually felt unconfident to approach that women, because the man who was nearby at that time with the girl was better than him.

#### 4.1.3 The Analysis of Flouting Maxim of Relation

In this analysis, the explanation is provides about how the utterances being flouted the Maxim of Relation and how those flouting could cause humorous effect and made the audiences laughed.

The character Ted in the TV series “How I Met Your Mother” also flouted the Maxim of Relation although that flouting was not much as the flouting of

Maxim of Manner and Maxim of Quality. In fact, the flouting of Maxim of Relation also could make the humorous effect too, if the character talked about irrelevant things such as made his conversations unmatched and changed the topic of the conversation.

The following example showed how the character flouted the Maxim of Relation by changing the topic of the conversation. The example was taken from the episode “Unfinished”. The opening scene of this episode was about Barney who talked to Ted that Barney saw three women at a bar.

Data 10:

**Setting** : In a bar  
**Situation** : Barney talked to Ted about three women in a bar  
**Participants** : Ted Mosby and Barney Stinson

Barney : Ted, look across the bar. Three chicks: one hot, one kind of hot and one who I’m assuming is really funny. \* We ride! \* What’s wrong?  
 Ted : I don’t know. Got a burger coming. \*

In his utterances, “Got a burger coming”, Ted Mosby flouted the Maxim of Relation because suddenly he changed the topic of his conversation with Barney.

First, Barney invited Ted to talk about three women who sat across the bar but, Ted gave a response which was not related with the women, but he talked about burger. The audiences laughed it because they realized that Ted changed the topic of his conversation with Barney in order to stop Barney to think about woman. It indicated that Ted was different from Barney. Ted didn’t like to talk much about woman like Barney did.

Next example was about the flouting of the Maxim of Relation which was caused by the character made his conversation unmatched with the conversation before. The example was taken from the episode “Natural History” where was Ted met with Zoey again.

Data 11:

**Setting** : In Natural History Museum

**Situation** : Zoey asked Ted to meet in private

**Participants** : Ted Mosby, Zoey and an old man

Ted : Oh! Zoey! There you are. Oh, my God! (Ted talks with the old man besides Zoey) You have a monocle. \* Is the real?  
 Zoey : Can you excuse us for a moment? Let’s go for a walk.  
 Ted : Good luck killing James Bond. \*

In the example above, Ted flouted the Maxim of Relation because he gave a contribution which unmatched with the Zoey’s utterances before. First, Zoey asked Ted to talk with her in private, but Ted gave a response which was not picturing the agreement to talk with Zoey. The audiences laughed it because they knew that the conversations between Ted and Zoey unmatched. There was no connection between the agreeing to talk with killing James Bond. Ted statement was more aimed to the old man who stands next Zoey. The statement was more as the last statement for the old man before Ted went with Zoey to talk in private.

Why Ted gave that statement because the old man was wearing a monocle like one character that played on James Bond movie.

#### 4.1.4 The Analysis of Flouting Maxim of Manner

In this analysis, the explanation is provides about how the utterances being flouted the Maxim of Manner and how those flouting could cause humorous effect and made the audiences laughed.

The Maxim of Manner was flouted only 3 times and it could cause humorous effect because the character made the ambiguity or the vagueness. The first example of flouting the Maxim of Manner was taken from episode "Big Days". In one scene which was the Barney's imagination, Ted Mosby flouted the Maxim of Manner because he gave a vagueness statement to his bride about what actually meant by Ted statement.

Data 12:

**Setting** : In a wedding  
**Situation** : As a wingman, Barney gives a statement in Ted wedding  
**Participant** : Ted Mosby, Barney and Ted's bride

Barney : Ladies and Gentlemen... I... had dibs.  
 Man : No! \*  
 Girl : What? Tell me this isn't true.  
 Ted : I had implied dibs. \*

The statement "I had implied dibs" from Ted is flouting the Maxim of Manner because the statement was a vagueness statement. The statement did not explain clearly the Barney statement previously; it was Barney statement true or false. The statement even invited other questions about what was meant by "I had implied dibs". This made the audiences laughed because ultimately they knew that

the statement "I had implied dibs" was made by Ted in reality. Then Barney made the imagination where Ted said that to the bride and eventually made the bride angry. Barney did it because he wanted to prove to Ted that his assessment of the 'Dibs' was wrong, the dibs was not implied.

From the analysis above, the table below shows how the flouting of Conversational Maxims could cause the humorous effect in the four episodes analyzed by the researcher.

**Table 4.2. Causing of Humour**

Flouting of Maxims	Causing of Humour
Quality	lying
	being ironical
	implying a sarcastic sentence
	denying
	making an exaggerate statement that he believes to be false
Quantity	giving too much information
	making an exaggerate statement with too much words
	giving too little information
Relation	changing the topic
	giving irrelevance contribution
Manner	making a vagueness statement

## 4.2 Discussion

Communication is a social activity that will only be implemented if there are other people involved in it. Therefore, for the communication purpose which is delivered by the speakers can be well received by the hearer, it would require the cooperation. In fact, it is not infrequently found any communications which is made by the speaker and the hearer that is not running properly, there is flouting of the Conversational Maxims that should be followed in every communication. If

the flouting occurs in a conventional context, the communication will be harmonious. However, if the flouting is committed in the context of humor, then it will show the funniness. As performed by Ted character in the TV series "How I Met Your Mother".

At 4 episodes of "How I Met Your Mother", the researcher found 71 utterances delivered by the character Ted flouted the Conversational Maxims. The most often flouted Maxim which is done by the character Ted and most often made the audiences laughed after heard it was Maxim of Quality by delivering something not tangible and not in accordance with the facts that should be supported and based on clear evidence. The second most flouted was Maxim of Quantity, because the speaker delivered too much or too little information. Subsequent flouting was a flouting Maxim of Relation where the speaker did not contribute relevant to something that was spoken before. The least flouting that occurred was flouting Maxim of Manner. It was done when speaker uttered something by giving unclear statement or said something vaguely.

Based on the findings obtained by the researcher, in this discussion, the researcher tried to interpret these findings using another point of view. The researcher found that the flouting of conversational maxim in humor, especially in sitcom "How I Met Your Mother", also influenced by two factors, there were, the relationship between the main character with other characters and the character emotion when the utterance was uttered by the speakers.

The evidence that the relationship between Ted and the other characters also encouraged the flouting of the Maxim of Quality was when Ted made the

audiences laughed by mocking his friends. The often time of the teasing activities happen proves that there was the closeness between them, in hoping that the ridicule thing would not hurt each others. Then, the evidence that the character emotion was also spurring the flouting of the Maxim of Quality was looked at a lot of the scene when Ted taunted the other characters. It was happen when Ted was angry or annoyed with the other characters.

Different relationship causes different effects, for example, the relationship between Ted and Zoey, the first woman he saw and had made him fall in love.

With their relationship, Ted several times also flouted the Maxim of quality by lying. Because of his attraction to her, Ted told a lie about his profession on Zoey who was strongly disagreeing with the destruction of the Arcadian by the GNB, where Ted worked. It was because Ted did not want to give bad impression to woman he loves. The character emotion was also support the flouting. The emotion which was happened on Ted at that time was the panic emotion. He was in panic emotion because he did not know what he would do to woman he loved who turned out to be the enemy of GNB.

Likewise the flouting of Maxim of Quantity, Ted often flouted the Maxim of Quantity when he was in a confuse emotion. For example, when Zoey knew the truth that Ted was an architect who worked with GNB to demolish The Arcadian.

Shortly after Zoey knew it and left Ted alone, a man approached Ted and asked him why the he dressed as a witch in the billboard, but because he was in a confuse emotion, and the man who asked was a stranger, so Ted replied simply, 'Because she's hot, okay'. The answer did not describe clearly about what the man



was asking. This proved that the flouting of Conversational Maxim was occurred because also supported by the current emotion when the speaker talked and also the relationship between the main character and other characters.

Also in the Maxim of Relation, the relationship between the main character and other characters and also the character emotion when the conversation occurred also influenced the character to flout the Maxim of Relations in his utterance. For example was the respond from Ted when Barney invited Ted to discuss the three women who would tease by Barney. Ted as a person who was already very familiar with the Barney and was bored with a topic that was always talking by Barney, which was about women, Ted quickly changed the subject between them in order to understand Barney that Ted was not at all interested in what was being discussed.

Finally, the Maxim of Manner was also frequently flouted and influenced by the relationship between the main character and other characters and also the character emotion during the conversation. As Ted's words to women who would marry with him in Barney imagination. In a confused emotion and the interlocutor was the woman he loved, then Ted said something that was not clear what he meant. In summary, it can be stated that flouting Conversational Maxims were caused by relationship between main character and other characters and also the main character emotion when the conversation occurred.

As said by Norrick (1986, cited in Tan, 1999, p. 19) that, in different times, a funny thing may cause different response from different people, even people of the same group or culture, the researcher also agreed that background knowledge

and culture of the audience also affected the appearance of the effects of humor in the character utterances. For example, if the audiences did not know anything about James Bond, then they would not laugh when the character Ted alludes the old man who was wearing a monocle as used by James Bond foe.

Another example was, if the audience came from non-western region or did not know fully understood about English, then they would not laugh when the character Ted said dirty words or slang words.

Related to the previous studies, there were similarities and differences between this study and the previous ones. Nelly (2005) conducted a study which was about humour in Bajaj Bajuri drama comedy TV series, concerned in semantics field and focused in the condition of the text. The study showed that in the speaker utterances there were some occurrences found when a speech act occurred, when an implicature was produced by the speaker, when a possible world was evoked by the text and when there was a presupposition shared by the speaker and the hearer. Similar with Nelly (2005), in this present study there were also utterances from the speaker which contained the humorous effect found when a speech act occurred and when an implicature was produced by the speaker, such as, to stop the conversation by giving less information (speech act) and gave an untrue statement by mocking (implicature). Similar with Yuliana (2007), which was concerned in violation of Cooperative Principle in Din Brodin JTV'S comedy, in this present study the researcher also found that the four maxims has been flouted and caused humorous effect.

Different from Nelly (2005) and Yuliana (2007), the researcher found that there were factors which supported the flouting of Conversational Maxim happened. The researcher also found that there were factors too which influenced the audience to laugh. It could be said that this study supported the two previous studies conducted by Nelly (2005) and Yuliana (2007).

