

Self-Punch Lines As Successful Jokes : Analyzing The Stand-Up Comedy Performance of Jimmy O Young

Cut Nina Sausina

Inggris Institut Bisnis Nusantara

cut.nina2013@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Humour is supposed to create hilarity or amusement either in conversation or in a comedy show. Some strategies are needed to deliver successful jokes. This research intends to recommend sequential organization as a strategy in doing stand-up comedy by analyzing a video that showed Jimmy O Young solo performance, a Chinese descent who has American citizenship. By using qualitative method this research is intended to answer two research questions. The first is which sequential organization proposed by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) do fit Jimmy O Young stand up performance. And the second is how does he perform them in his stand-up performance. The results shows that Jimmy O Young fits all sequential organizations proposed by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009), and he performs his show very successfully by using informal registers, use his family and personal life experiences as topic jokes, and always refers punchline to himself, rather than referring to the audience.

Keywords: sequential organizations, jokes, punch lines, stand-up comedy

ABSTRAK

Humor sejatinya menciptakan kegembiraan dan hiburan baik dalam percakapan maupun dalam sebuah pertunjukan komedi. Diperlukan beberapa strategi untuk sukses menyampaikan lelucon. Riset ini bertujuan untuk merekomendasikan sequential organization sebagai strategi dalam sebuah pertunjukan komedi stand up melalui sebuah analisa pada video komedi stand up Jimmy O Young, seorang komedian keturunan Tionghoa yang berkewarganegaraan Amerika. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif riset ini bertujuan untuk menjawab dua pertanyaan. Yang pertama adalah langkah-langkah yang manakah dari sequential organizations yang diusung oleh Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) yang sesuai dengan strategi Jimmy dalam menyampaikan lelucon-leluconnya. Dan pertanyaan kedua adalah bagaimana sequential organizations yang Jimmy O young lakukan dalam pertunjukan komedinya. Hasil riset menunjukkan bahwa Jimmy menggunakan semua langkah dalam sequential organizations sebagai strateginya, dan dia tampil dengan sangat sukses dengan menggunakan kata-kata informal, menjadikan keluarga dan pengalaman pribadinya sebagai bahan-bahan lelucon, serta selalu membuat dirinya sebagai punch line, ketimbang menjadikan penonton sebagai bagian utama setiap leluconnya.

Kata kunci: pengaturan sekuensial lelucon, bagian lucunya, komika

I. INTRODUCTION

The prime purpose of humour is created hilarity or amusement (Carver, 2013) either in daily conversation or in comic performances such as stand-up comedy. The use of humor also allows speakers talk about sensitive issues without sounding inappropriate, incorrect or offensive (Perez, 2017; Cundall, 2012). Humor also offers several opportunities to maintain a positive identity (Blanchard, Stewart, Cann, & Follman, 2014). To minimize direct confrontation in assessments conveyance humor is used between the speaker and audience (Dews, Kaplan, & Winner, 2007).

According to Adegoju & Oyeboode (2015) and Bakar (2015), personal problems related to discursive identity issue are handled humorously, moreover the problems are reported with laughter.

Humor and comedy have been investigated in the field of linguistics. Filani (2015) conducted research in terms of discourse types in stand-up comedy performances. He used an example of Nigerian stand-up comedy to postulate two contexts in stand-up joking stories: context of the joke and context in the joke. His research revealed that stand-up comedians perform discourse types, which are specific communicative acts in the context of the joke, such as greeting, reporting and informing, which bifurcates into self-praising and self-denigrating. Meanwhile, Glick (2007) stated about performative techniques of a comic. He analyzed the textuality of temporalization and explored the verbal art of stand-up comedy. Filani (2015) took a relevance theoretic perspective to investigate the pragmatic strategies stand-up comedian employ in their routines and how such strategies entail the entertainment. Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) suggested a sequential organization in stand-up comedy performance. They examined four comics represent "white" and "black" community in America who performed in Clubs. Their results revealed that punch lines delivered were audience referred and self-referred. Audience referred punch lines were used based on audience situations that have been observed by comedians before performing. However, the interactional contexts in stand-up comedy that related to sequential organizations are rarely investigated. To better understand the contexts, studies across the sequential organizations in stand-up comedy performance are required. Such approaches are needed to recommend successful stand-up comedy performance.

Hence, to the best writer's knowledge there have been limited researches discussed sequential organizations in stand-up comedy performance. Here the writer investigated that aims to recommend sequential organization in doing stand-up comedy. Thus, this research aims to answer these following questions:

1. Which sequential organization proposed by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) do fit Jimmy O Young stand up performance?
2. How does he perform them in his stand-up performance?

This research aims to better understand comic's stand up performance based on the sequential organization proposed by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009), in order to find out the ways he uses all steps of that sequential organization. This research is expected to emphasize the successful strategies for stand-up comedians in delivering their jokes using sequential organization. Moreover, this research is expected to enrich humor studies for knowledge and humanity.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research applies qualitative method because it analyzes the content of some jokes. The data are collected, analyzed, and described in the form of words. The data are taken from a youtube

channel produced by Amazon Prime Video. This video entitled Jimmy O Young Stand Up. This video shows Jimmy O Young performance in his solo stand-up comedy. There is nine jokes Jimmy delivered in this video.

Data collection goes to some procedures. First, the video entitled Jimmy O Young Stand Up Comedy was downloaded from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_PQPfDbgHM. Second step is the writer watches and transcribes the jokes of the performance. After that, the writer analyzes the precision between the comedian organisations in delivering jokes and Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009)'s sequential organizations theory. Finally, the writer classifies the jokes into suitable steps of Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009)'s sequential organizations theory.

Data analysis follows a certain step. First, the performance is analyzed. Then, the writer watches the video, while watching the video, the writer made the transcriptions, then put the lines in the tables. The performance covered nine jokes as data then analyzed using sequential organizations theory by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009).to answer the research problems.

The writer uses Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) theory in analyzing the sequential organization of Jimmy O young. this study focuses on whether he performs the following sequences:

1. Starting the interaction by begin their performance through interaction with the audience
2. Transition to a new joke sequence; a phase where the comic organizes the movement from one joke sequence to the next.
3. Expanding successful jokes; when the comic presents a cascade of punch lines that rely on the premise of the first one.
4. referring to the audience in the punch line: when the comics exploit the audience as well as themselves as material of humour.

III. DISCUSSION

This research intends to answer two research questions. The first is which sequential organization proposed by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) do fit Jimmy O Young stand up performance. The second is how does he perform them in his stand-up performance. There are nine short jokes delivered by Jimmy O Young, the comic on the video. All jokes have been classified on the table below:

Table 1. Joke Transcriptions of Jimmy Performance

1	Transition to a new joke equence	I see a lot of people out here in the streets they want to come up to me, but they're not really sure.
	Expanding successful jokes	there's a lot of debate amongst their friends. they're like hey man are you sure that's him, if we go up there we gotta be sure because if we go up there and it's nothim, we're gonna look super racist. Are you sure that's not Ken Jong? I don't know it looks kind of like Allie Wong, I don't know....
	Referring himself as punchline	. and it come up to me as always like the first thing, they say like hey hey man aren't you Jingyang from that show Silicon Valley? thank you , thank you I appreciate that yeah I am. and then they're like oh [__] I don't know you speak English in real life. like it's called acting [__] English.
2	Transition to a new joke sequence	I got to give every uber driver five-star ranger so i can be a good representative. Everywhere i go i gotta represent even day to day shit.
	Expanding successful jokes	even the bedroom, I gotta represent after I hooked up with this one girl this is what she said to me she was like jimmy um I don't know how to tell you this but you're the first asian guy i've ever been with.
	Referring his date as a punchline	I'm like okay.... what do you want?..... a fortune cookie ? this one girl said this shit that was so disrespectful this is what she said to me after we hooked up. she was like jimmy um i'm just glad the stereotype's not true... you don't have a small penis. damn like bitch! you understand you're just insulting my entire race of people.... but thank you
3	Transition to a new joke sequence	whenever somebody asks me do something i don't want to do i just make up a fake chinese holiday now.
	Expanding successful jokes	it's like hey jimmy can you help me move next Monday? i'm like.... Monday? that's the dragon boat lychee boba festival dog, i can't.....
	Reffering his grandfather as a punchline	can't just help you move . my grandfather died for that shit, you understand?

4	Transition to a new joke sequence	and if people was gonna assume that I don't speak english that's fine . that's what i do now when I get pulled up by the cops
	Expanding successful jokes	I just pretend I don't speak english. I haven't gotten a ticket in five years. last time i got pulled over the cop was knocking my windows like sir you do understand you can't make a right turn here. it says right there in the turn, here it says right there in the sign, you can't make a right turn. so I just looked up at him I was like oh i don't know, I'm sorry but the english is not very good so I cannot read the design and he was really confused.
	Referring himself as a punchline	he just looked back down at me he was like sir the sign is not in english it's a diagram. so i don't understand how that's a language barrier so i just looked up at him i was like oh i don't know
5	Transition to a new joke sequence	but do you know today is the dragon ball light tripod i was still using tinder up until like a year ago this is a true story but now i realize i got a whole new set of issues on tinder
	Expanding successful jokes	like now when i do match with a girl she doesn't believe that it's me. I don't know but do you know like ugh that's not you. that's not you're not that guy from this thing and that thing.
	referring himself as a punchline	I'm like who the fuck is using me as a fake profile?.... you gotta dig real deep to use me man
6	Transition to a new joke sequence	I've been dating a lot of tall girls lately..... because it makes me look successful.
	Expanding successful jokes	I think tall women are beautiful but some of them like to wear heels that's just disrespect. like you're already five inches taller than me why the you're wearing heels and she's like it makes my ass look better i'm like your ass is at my eye level right now neither of us look good
	referring his date as a punchline	okay I look like a child and you look like a child molester
7	Transition to a new joke sequence	my real name is not even Jimmy that's my english name. my real name is Man Xing. In Canada is Monsing, it stands for 10 000 success. yeah yeah yeah I had very ambitious parents and now i'm telling dick jokes and doing tai chi on stage.

	Expanding successful jokes	So and my dad he named himself Richard I was like dad why'd you name yourself richard? he was like because i want to be rich. it makes so much sense. My dad would take me to every practice every tournament game, and he'd always try to give me a pep talk before every game. But you know Asian parents they're way too honest
	referring his father as a punchline	so every pep talk just turned into an insult like he'll come up to me be like Jimmy Jimmy you're going to play well okay? even though you're slow even though you're weak, and you'll suck. and then he would just walk away
8	Transition to a new joke sequence	After I graduated I didn't want to do like econ or finance, so i got one up to my dad I was like, Dad I don't want to do any of this I want to go try and do stand-up and he's like what's a stand-up? you mean like a talk show? I was like yeah sure talk show whatever you want to call it okay
	Expanding successful jokes	but I want to go pursue my dreams and he was like no!.. pursuing your dreams how you become homeless. they're like.... no no that Dad it's things are different now we're in America okay?, in America we're supposed to do what we love.
	referring his father as a punchline	He was like...no! everyone does what they hate for money and use the money to do what they love
9	Transition to a new joke sequence	one time I asked my dad I was like dad after 38 years do you still love mom? and he was like love? your mom married me to escape communist China. it's not love ,it's a good deal. [Applause]
	Expanding successful jokes	that's how we show love people if you want a good deal, you follow the old asian people right?
	Referring his father lesson as a punchline	you go to Costco, you see a sea of old Asian people because you know everyone's getting a great deal. Nobody's getting ripped off you go to whole foods, never seen one mother fucker old asian in my life

The current study found that the comic did step two until four of joke sequences from Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009) theory. The comic, Jimmy did transition to a new joke sequence by

telling his experience such as judging by his fans, his date experience connected to his genital size as a stereotype in Asia race, his experience in refusing people's invitation connected with his race celebration, his experience to avoid driving fine from the cops, his experience when girls do not believe he joined Tinder by ignoring his photo, his experience when dating a very tall girl using high heels, the way his father encouraged him, and his talk with his father about love connected to old Asian's belief.

In this step he tells his live or daily experience to introduce his new joke such as, "I see a lot of people out here in the streets they want to come up to me, but they're not really sure.", or "one time I asked my dad I was like dad after 38 years do you still love mom? ". This "transition to a new joke" step opposes with Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009)'s findings that stated the comics used fillers and surveys when they moved from one to another jokes. The comics used fillers such as "oh man", "so", "now". Besides fillers, the comics on the previous study also used surveys, some utterances usually question forms that can set the conditions for upcoming punchline for instances, "anybody ever done that?", "hip hop fans in the house, where are you?"

In transition to a new joke sequence, Jimmy did not use surveys and fillers, he knows how to organize the encounter to deal with joke telling by telling complete sentences rather than fillers or surveys. It seems Jimmy managed to organize the movement from one joke to sequence to the next. Complete sentences are considered here to prepare punch lines for the next sequence. However, the topic Jimmy used were similar with the previous study's topics such as family, and personal experiences.

The next step of Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009)'s theory that fits Jimmy's stand up performance is expanding successful jokes. This step is intended to start preparing a new joke sequence, where positive response is expected from audience. Some premises Jimmy delivered were explanation before heading to punchlines. In joke no 9 he stated "that's how we show love people if you want a good deal, you follow the old Asian people right? ", then in joke number 1 he delivered, "there's a lot of debate amongst their friends. they're like hey man are you sure that's him, if we go up there, we gotta be sure because if we go up there and it's not him, we're gonna look super racist. are you sure that's not Ken Jeong? I don't know it looks kind of like Allie Wong; I don't know." Moreover, the way he delivered his premise can be looked in joke no 7, "So and my dad he named himself Richard I was like dad why'd you name yourself Richard? he was like because I want to be rich. it makes so much sense. My dad would take me to every practice every tournament game, and he'd always try to give me a pep talk before every game. But you know Asian parents they're way too honest...".

These descriptions showed that Jimmy fully used sentences as interesting elements. In joke no 9 "good deal" and "old Asian people" were the main points to direct his audience to this joke's

punchline. Meanwhile the key words for his joke number 1 were “super racist”, “Ken Jeong”, and “Allie Wong”. Jimmy used his race as a Chinese descendant connected to people who have similarity with him in term of race and profession. These are chosen might because of common stereotype that still happen in America. Then in joke number 7 Jimmy used “my dad’s name”, “Richard” refers to “rich”, his father’s American name connected to Asian parents’ customs in encouraging their children in games or tournament. These topics were similar with the previous study where a comic used skinny appearance before his punchline. The skinny appearance was connected to his intention to change his location to Ethiopia and Somalia. Then he expanded into several joke expansion until the end. The success of the comics performance in the previous study is supported by several informal registers the comics used, for instance “juice up”, “damn”, and by directly using their personal experiences and events as humor material. The informal registers were also used in the recent study. Jimmy used “ugh”, “guy” in joke number 5, in joke number 1 he said “gotta”, in joke number 6 he mentioned “gotta”, and “like” in joke number 8.

In the previous research, accounts were used by the comics, to take care unacceptable joke. In the previous research one of the comics used “I don’t mean to embarrass you, I’m sorry Nancy, Mrs. Nancy. “Dwayne, the comic who used the account might avoid a negative consequence, because he just mimicked Bryan’s sexual performance, which made the audience laughed. Different results were showed by the recent study. Jimmy did not use accounts as he never refers audience for his sexual joke material. When he delivered sexual joke, he addressed himself as we can see in joke number 2, “even the bedroom, I gotta represent after I hooked up with this one girl this is what she said to me she was like jimmy um I don't know how to tell you this but you're the first asian guy i've ever been with.” Or in joke number 5, “like now when i do match with a girl she doesn't believe that it's me. I don’t know but do you know like ugh that's not you. that's not you're not that guy from this thing and that thing.” It is showed that Jimmy used more polite jokes which never direct to vulgar jokes. Having given those performance, the writer suggests comics or those who are learning to be comics to use accounts to avoid negative consequences or to refer themselves as joke material.

After expanding successful jokes, the next step we are discussing is referring to the audience in the punch line. The punch lines observed in the recent study were directed to the comedian, his family, friends, or people related to his experiences such as policemen and his fans. None of the punch lines were directed to his audience. This finding opposes the previous study, where the punch lines not only directed to the audience, but also directed to the comedians. The previous study stated that among 508 punch lines, 363 (71,5%) were directed either to the comedian or to the audience (Scarpetta & Spagnolli, 2009). Using the comedian or the audience as jokes are acceptable, however making fun of the audience is more risky than making fun of the comedian. The punch line in joke 4 is a good example of his punch line: “he just looked back down at me he was like sir the sign is not

in english. it's a diagram. so, I don't understand how that's a language barrier, so I just looked up at him i was like oh i don't know. Jimmy explained his punch line that he pretended not understand English when he was questioned by some cops because of breaking traffic rules. He mimicked the cops confusion telling him that the sign was actually a diagram, not an English sentence. then insisted he did not know by showing flat expression. Then Jimmy got positive respond through big laughing and clapping.

Another good punch line is joke number two; Jimmy told audience he got a representative as an Asian man related to the genital size. After expanding his joke by saying that a woman who had hooked up with him, expressed her excitement about untrue stereotype, "I'm like okay.... what do you want?..... a fortune cookie?" this first punch line, fortune cookie might refer to his satirical idea of dating a Chinese looking man, where the date was expected bring fortune. The continue punch line in joke number two is "she was like jimmy um i'm just glad the stereotype's not true...you don't have a small penis. damn like bitch! you understand you're just insulting my entire race of people.... but thank you. The audience laughed quite long as they might expect an anger of the stereotype, however the comedian thanks the woman instead, lower his voice intonation, and mimicked a thankful expression. This kind of strategy is useful for a punch line. Audience enjoys the opposite between what they expect and what the comedian says.

I. CONCLUSION

The results taken from Jimmy O Yang Stand up performance showed that he used all sequential organizations proposed by Scarpetta & Spagnolli (2009)'s theory. In transition into a new joke sequence he told his experience such as judging by his fans, his date experience connected to his genital size as a stereotype in Asia race, his experience in refusing people's invitation connected with his race celebration, his experience to avoid driving fine from the cops, his experience when girls do not believe he joined Tinder by ignoring his photo, his experience when dating a very tall girl using high heels, the way his father encouraged him, and his talk with his father about love connected to old Asian's belief. In expanding successful jokes he used complete sentences, informal registers, he did not use accounts to avoid unacceptable jokes. And in referring to the audience in the punch line, Jimmy directed all punch lines to himself revealing his personal experiences such as date, family belief, deal with cops, or Asian man stereotypes.

This study implies comedians or those who want to perform stand up to organize their materials as successful jokes. And the results of this study might be useful and beneficial for further humor study. It is clear that the writer's analysis is limited to some extent because sequential organizations in stand up comedy have more than the things have been presented. In future studies it is important to analyze sequential organizations in different niches.

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