

An Analysis of Humor in the Dialogues of Good Luck Charlie from the Perspective of the Cooperative Principle

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Abstract

As a kind of art, humor can not only bring us great pleasure but also lead to a harmonious relationship. Debut on Disney Channel in April 2010, the family sitcom *Good Luck Charlie* is about Charlie's interesting footprints and the colorful life of the whole family of Bob. It has become very popular because of its amusing plot. The author tries to analyze the humor in chosen dialogues in *Good Luck Charlie* from the perspective of the Cooperative Principle (CP) from Grice, hoping to help the audiences understand how the humor is generated by violating the CP. What's more, the author hopes to make people realize the importance of humor and improve their appreciation level. Through the analysis, the author finds out that it is the violation of the four maxims of the CP that has made the dialogues funny--the maxim of quantity, quality, relation and manner. Furthermore, the effect of humor will be more obvious when several maxims of the CP are violated at the same time.

Keywords

Cooperative Principle; Humor; Good Luck Charlie; Violation.

1. Introduction

The CP, which guides people's communication, was proposed by Paul Grice in 1975. Thanks to this principle, people can communicate with each other successfully. In this way, the participants of conversations can attain the object of understanding and coordinating with each other. However, sometimes people will violate the Cooperative Principle, aiming to express different implication, say, humor. This theory has been applied to many fields. A vast amount of the academic researches focused on its extensive use in various translations, slogans, teaching, classical literature works, and daily verbal communications and so on. From these researches, we can know better about how the Cooperative Principle is used in different aspects and how it performs functions of being a communication guide. Of course, the analysis on the violation of the CP in the aspect of variety shows, movies and comedy shows can be found here and there. Many authors used the CP to show the characters' personalities, bringing us a good chance to appreciate different emotions the film aims to express.

In this article, the author tries to briefly analyze the humor in the dialogues of *Good Luck Charlie* from the perspective of the Cooperative Principle. This sitcom is fantastic because of its humorous language. What's more, the illuminating truth it shows through humor is worth our attention. It can make the audiences, including both at home and abroad, have a better understanding of the generation of humor in this sitcom. In other words, the audiences can understand the reason why the dialogues are funny. On the other hand, the thesis can stimulate the English beginners' interest of studying. Besides, they are able to perceive the precious kinship, friendship and love in *Good Luck Charlie*. With humor, people can be optimistic and will face the challenges actively in life. Last but not least, American culture and values (life, family and friendship) can be incisively and vividly presented.

2. Good Luck Charlie

Debut on Disney Channel in April, 2010, *Good Luck Charlie* was keenly followed in the U.S. Amusing and witty, it has become popular in Britain, Ireland, China, etc.

2.1. Brief Introduction of Good Luck Charlie

The sitcom revolves around the whole family of Bob and describes the adjustment process of the coming of their new babies--Charlie and Toby. It amuses us by timely filling laughter, humorous characters, and extremely dramatic conflicts. As the cute father of the family, Bob owns a pest control company and has a great interest in a variety of pests. He has five children: PJ (the oldest), Teddy (the second), Gabi (the third), Charlie (the fourth) and Toby (the youngest). Teddy makes a DV diary to record the interesting and meaningful process of Charlie's growth, intending to let her review her growth footprint and give her some suggestions when she grows up. In addition, audiences can experience the colorful and funny life of the whole family and feel the precious kinship, friendship and sincere love among them. What's more, as the plot unfolding, attracting American culture and the parents' selfless dedication are incisively and vividly reflected. It can leave a deep impression on our minds. Bob is fat and crazy about food. Always reminding others of his job as a pest control specialist, he has become the object of a jest to Teddy. As a nurse, Mom Amy has a passion for stage and wishes to be in the limelight. Keen on rock music, PJ is pure. Playful and naught, Gabi is treated as an elf and troublemaker. New babies Charlie and Toby are nimble and adorable. Optimistic and vigorous are Teddy's characteristics.

2.2. Importance of analyzing Good Luck Charlie

The current trend of globalization makes the whole world unpredictable. We are supposed to learn about and deeply study other countries' economic and social development through media and film and television works, which can promote international exchanges and cooperation. Keeping pace with the changing times is a must to strengthen a nation's comprehensive ability, making itself benefit from the development of the whole world. Furthermore, cultural transmission among different countries should not be ignored, which serves as a driving force that enhances the prosperity of a country or a nation. Nowadays it is crucial and necessary for every nation to instill its culture, which has gradually become an outstanding topic. Thus, films and TV plays serve as an important role. Every nation is supposed to seek common ground and reserve differences for mutual benefit. Given this, *Good Luck Charlie* is of great significance to be deeply studied.

3. Humor

As mentioned above, this paper will discuss the generation of humor in the dialogues of *Good Luck Charlie*, so it is necessary to introduce some information about humor. Compared with the foreign researches, the researches on humorous discourse in China are still not enough. In terms of theory, Chinese researchers always follow western humorous discourse analysis theories, whose theoretical content is mostly introduced by translation but not form their own original thoughts.

3.1. Definition of Humor

As the spice of our life, humor plays an essential role. It is universal in social life, TV shows, ads, movies, enriching our languages and culture. In *Oxford Advanced Learner's English-Chinese Dictionary*, humor is defined as "the quality in something that makes it funny or amusing; the ability to laugh at things that are amusing." [1] The author prefers this idea because this paper intends to find the generations of humor in a sitcom, whose purpose is to amuse audiences and to make them laugh.

3.2. Classification of Humor

Humor has a variety of classifications. Non-verbal humor refers to humor created without utilizing languages but tries to take advantages of background music, different kinds of dialects, amusing expressions and rich body languages for the sake of humorous effects. Take Charlie Chaplin's silent film as an example, its humor is expressed by abundant body languages and audiences are attracted because of the fantastic details. By using languages to amuse people or create special effects, people try to express another kind of method. It is treated as verbal humor.

Most of the humor belongs to universal humor. Regardless of one's sense of humor, a person will always laugh when amused by something interesting. To a large degree, humor is interlinked and can transcend the boundaries of nation and culture. Cultural humor: Every area has its special cultural features, so sometimes it will be difficult for people in different areas to understand or to communicate with each other. This paper will investigate the humor in some conversations of a sitcom, so the verbal humor will be mainly focused on.

3.3. Necessity of Humor

Humor is to us what water is to the fish. Without humor, our life will become withered flowers, pale and lifeless. In today's competitive society, we need to be aware of the necessity of humor. A great quantity of scientific research demonstrates that humor can not only make a person self-generate happy feelings, but also improve physical as well as mental well-being. It plays a crucial role in all aspects of our life, making us respond to the challenges actively.

Firstly, humor can be regarded as energy in work. It can cause happy mood which enhances people's creativity, cognitive ability and operating efficiency. Creative thinking, rational judgment, and good problem-solving skills can be cultivated. Thus, we can be active and vigorous when working, which brings us appreciation and more promotion opportunities.

Secondly, in the aspect of life, humor functions like a kind of flavoring to help people create harmonious atmosphere. In some embarrassing moments, a sense of humor can skillfully remove misunderstanding, calm down the situation. To be humorous, we are able to make more friends and approach fresh things. In this way, we can make our life colorful. Besides, humor teaches us how to forget tension and overcome frustration. It can enrich our life to a large extent.

Finally, humor guides us to keep stress at bay. The fast-paced society has increased people's pressures from different aspects, large numbers of people feel physically and mentally exhausted. To change this situation, humor is desperately demanded to stimulate our enthusiasm of life and encourage us to be more optimistic. Great efforts should be made to focus on mental health, which has increasingly influenced people's life. In particular, social problems and crimes that caused by mental problems now troubles the entire society. In order to build a harmonious society, core values of socialism are expected to be focuses on. The whole community needs harmonious coexistence, which can well promote people's wellbeing. Whereupon, people can live and work in peace and contentment. Being the resource of happiness, humor helps a lot in making harmonious family relationship, which strengthens precious love among family members.

4. The Cooperative Principle (CP) of Grice

In 1975, H.P. Grice, a British philosopher of language put forward the Cooperative Principle in his famous article named "The Cooperative Principle". The CP was generalized as follows: "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at where it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged [3]." Four

maxims are mentioned in the principle: quantity maxim, quality maxim, relation maxim, and manner maxim. Next, the four maxims will be presented respectively as follows.

4.1. The Maxim of Quantity

The Maxim of Quantity:

- i) Make your contribution as informative as is required for the current purposes of the exchange [2].
- ii) Do not make your contribution more informative than is required [2].

The interlocutors should present enough information in the process of conversation, making the listener understand the intension and expression. On the contrary, if the participator of the conversation shares too much information, it will be useless or unnecessary. In other words, the speaker must handle appropriately.

4.2. The Maxim of Quality

Maxim of Quality:

- i) Do not say what you believe to be false [2].
- ii) Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidences [2].

According to this maxim, speakers should be honest in order to make smooth communication. The speaker has to provide information that is true and credible. Illusive or false information is not allowed to appear according to the principle.

4.3. The Maxim of Relation

Maxim of Relation: Be relevant [2].

This maxim insists that information in the conversation be relative to the topic. If the content is beside the mark or off the point, the hearer might be confused, and then the communication will turn out to be a failure.

4.4. The Maxim of Manner

Maxim of manner:

- i) Avoid obscurity of expression [2].
- ii) Avoid ambiguity [2].
- iii) Be brief [2].
- iv) Be orderly [2].

This principle requires the details in the conversation be clear for talkers to understand, avoiding ambiguity. If the speaker includes vague information, the hearer might be less interested in the contents and even want to escape. In order to continue the conversation and attract the attention of the other interlocutor, the speaker should also focus on conciseness and rationality.

In sum, four principles of CP provide a cooperative method when coping with dialogues, giving people a suitable approach to communicate with others and helping them create comfortable atmosphere. Thus, they can enjoy communicating with each other, deepening friendship and understandings.

However, due to different situation and backgrounds, people may sometimes willfully obey the mentioned principles so as to make special influence.

5. Generation of Humor in the Dialogues of Good Luck Charlie

As mentioned in the last part, humor is treated as a result of the violations of the four maxims of the CP. In the upcoming section, the investigations of the generation of humor in some dialogues of *Good Luck Charlie* will be showed respectively according to the four maxims.

5.1. Violation of Quantity Maxim

The quantity maxim needs the speaker to provide appropriate account of information. We can experience the humorous effect when the speaker violates this maxim.

5.1.1. Less Information

Sometimes, speakers violate the quantity maxim by making the conversation lack of information. For instant, in the third episode of *Good Luck Charlie*, Gabe was asking PJ to go to Mr. Dabney's backyard to get the football.

Gabe: P.J, I just kicked the football into the Dabney's backyard. Will you go get it?

P.J: No way! They're going at it again.

Gabe: Well, what about the football?

P.J: Who cares? It's gone. Kiss it goodbye.

Gabe: Well, I'm glad to hear you say that, because it was your football. (laughter)

P.J refused Gabe's request and crowed over by persuading Gabe to forget the football. Gabe gives less information, making P.J deduce that it was not his football but Gabe's that has been kicked into Mr. Dabney's backyard, so P.J says "Who cares?" When Gabe mentions, "it was your football", P. J's perky countenance turns out to be awkward and embarrassed. Thus, humor was produced. If Gabe mentioned the owner of the football at the beginning, this conversation may be prosaic and the humor will vanish.

We can experience this situation in another example in the twelfth episode. P.J is doing his part-time job as a chicken deliveryman with Charlie. When the customer opens the door, the conversation begins.

Customer: Who is it?

P.J.: Kwikki Chikki. Hi, it's 21.7 dollars.

Customer: Oh, okay. Who is this cutie pie?

P.J.: I'm P.J. (Pleased and shy)

Customer: I meant the other cutie pie.

P.J.: Oh, this is Charlie. She's my baby sister.

Customer: Why, isn't she the most precious thing in the whole world?

P.J: Yeah, my mom is at the hospital, so I'm looking after her.

Customer: Oh, you poor dear. Keep the change.

P.J.: Are you sure? This is almost a 20 dollars tip.

Customer: Oh, you need it more than I do. What with your mom being in the hospital and all?

In this conversation, two successive violations of the quantity maxims appear, creating an active atmosphere. In the first place, the customer opens the door and sees Lovely Charlie. Providing insufficient information, the customer just says "Who is this cutie pie" but doesn't add something like "that litter girl", which makes P.J. thinks that he is being praised. Later, P.J.'s narcissistic satisfied expression on the face seems funny.

Again, P.J expresses the reason why carrying Charlie by mentioning "my mom is in the hospital". After hearing this, the customer considers that P.J.'s mom is ill so she replies "keep the change" to comfort him. However, the fact is that P.J.'s mom is not sick but works as a nurse in the hospital. P.J takes after Charlie because his mother is so busy that day. After P.J realizes the mistake, he takes the tip with joy in his heart. P.J. provides inadequate information, violating the quantity maxim twice. In this way, amusing atmosphere is revealed.

On the other hand, human interests of American people can be recognized through this trivial matter, which reflects amiability and generosity. Thus, audiences could not only comprehend the humor but also appreciate the generosity of American people, improving the effect of impression and in some extend advocating a harmonious society.

5.1.2. More Information

The maxim of quantity requires the interlocutor to avoid providing verbose or cumbersome information. Over information in the dialogue will cause violation of the quantity maxim, creating humorous effect.

In episode 12 in this sitcom, P.J. falls in love with an attractive girl and they enter the deep-love-stage very quickly. One day, P.J. gets some fresh news and can't wait to rush into the kitchen to share with his parents.

P.J.: My girlfriend...I love saying this. She told me something interesting.

Mom: She's your girlfriend already? You've had one date.

P.J: One amazing date. One awesome, magical, fun...

Dad: What did she say? (a loud voice)

P.J. intends to share something interesting, but interposed by his mom Amy. Amy doubts whether Madison has become P.J.'s girlfriends or not, for they have had just only one appointment. In order to prove, P.J. can't stop describing his perfect feeling about the wonderful date with Madison. Finally, dad Bob can't help stopping him by blurting out the last sentence loudly. Entranced by Madison's charm, P.J gives excessive information and violates the quantity maxim, which thoroughly exudes the humorous effect.

From this tiny detail, P. J's vaguely pleasant is reflected incisively. Besides, audiences can appreciate the sweet first love between P.J. and Madison through his excited expression. Warm and fervent, first love is a burning flame, a clear river or a cup of attractive wine. Although the rigmarole of P.J. amuses audiences and shows some kind of awkwardness, sweet love and happiness between P.J and his girlfriend is perfectly revealed.

We can see another example in episode 24. Duncan's family goes to a ski resort called mount bliss for a vacation. Teddy asks for Amy for her pink scarf.

Teddy: Hey, mom, can I borrow your pink scarf?

Amy: Sure, honey. Why are you all dolled up?

Teddy: Because I think I may have met the love of my life.

Teddy: Except I acted crazy and scared him away, so now I have to get super cute and hang out in the lobby so he can fall in love with me.

Teddy: Mom, I've got to tell you, he is the perfect guy.

Amy: Well, okay.

In order to answer Amy's question, it should be sufficient for Teddy to reply "I want that cute guy to fall in love with me." However, in their conversation, she includes excessive information, which violates the quantity maxim. Teddy doesn't believe the psychic's words that she will meet her true love in the resort until she really does. So, she is very excited and keeps telling the details how he meets the boy and the reason why she wants to doll herself up. Thus, Teddy makes a simple dialogue a funny one and amuses the audiences.

On the other hand, during this conversation, Teddy confides in her mother straightforward, no secret to express her true feelings and thoughts. In other words, Teddy regards her mother as a close friend who she firmly trusts and shares stories with, which presents an enviable and precious love between mother and daughter. What's more, this can really set a good example for today's teenagers.

5.2. Violation of Quality Maxim

The quality maxim points out that the speaker needs to provide the information that he or she believes to be authentic and credible. What's more, contents that lack in a basis should be avoided when communicating. However, interlocutors deliberately run counter to this maxim, which leads to humor.

The following dialogue is a case in the episode12 of this sitcom. Gabe goes to his mother for help.

Gabe: Mom, can you help me with something?

Amy: Sure, honey. What can I do for you?

Gabe: Well, I have this friend and he needs to know how to talk to girls.

Amy: Does this friend have a name?

Gabe: No-orman.

Amy: No-orman. That's an odd name.

Gabe: Well, I think he's from No-orway

Gabe falls in love with a pretty girl named Kitty, so he wants some advice from his mom. However, instead of being honest and telling the truth directly, he makes a lie at the beginning- he makes up a fictitious friend named "No-orman" comes from "No-orway", who needs some advice of talking to girls. Obviously, it is lack of evidence and ridiculous. Actually, it is Gabe himself who needs the advice. In order to avoid embarrassment, Gabe violates the quality maxim, which creates funny and humorous atmosphere.

Furthermore, careful audiences may come to know that Amy has already realized that Gabe himself is the so called "No-orman". However, in order to protect Gabe's young and fragile heart, Mom Amy pretends to know nothing and disguises what she has known. Thus, a considerate mother and her thoughtful love were appreciated.

Again, in the same episode, when Gabe is talking to Kitty, something interesting happens.

Gabe: Tell me about your family.

Kitty: Oh, the family. Actually, there's not much to tell. I'm an only child.

Gabe: Me too.

Kitty: Cool.

Gabe: What else?

Kitty: Well, my parents are divorced.

Gabe: Mine too.

Kitty: Who do you live with?

Gabe: Who do you live with?

Kitty: My mom.

Gabe: Me too.

Kitty: Wow, we really have a lot in common.

Gabe: You know, I had a feeling we might. Want half of a peanut-butter sandwich?

Kitty: No, thanks. I'm allergic to peanuts.

Gabe: Me too.

In order to attract Kitty's interest and continue the conversation with her, Gabe tries to cater to her. He lies four times and pretends to be an only child in a divorced family as Kitty's, for he wants to pretend that they have a lot in common. In other words, Gabe provides information that he believes to be false. Besides, he finally throws his peanut-sandwich because of the same reason, which turns the ordinary dialogue into an amusing one and strengthens the humorous effect.

From what has been mentioned above, audiences can realize that Gabe seems to be lost when faced with his favorite girl. With Gabe's awkward actions and words, pure and clean pupil love was showed.

5.3. Violation of Relation Maxim

The maxim of relation means that the contents of the communication should be connected with the topic. Digressive information should be avoided. Example can be seen in the fifth episode of season two of this sitcom. Emmett is asking Teddy for a dancing.

Emmett: Oh, um, Teddy? Looking forward to the party?

Teddy: Mm-hmm.

Emmett: May I have the first dance?

Teddy: You have butt chip breath.

Emmett: I'll go brush.

Emmett has a crush on Teddy so he wants to dance with her in the coming party. Feeling no attraction towards Emmett, Teddy tactfully divagates what is discussing about and mentions the butt chip instead of refusing Emmett directly. In responding to Teddy, Emmett follows her words and gives himself an out. Teddy gets away with the subject and violates the maxim of relation, avoiding the embarrassment and adds humor.

We can see another case about this point in the 12th episode in the second season. A comical scene takes places in the "Kwikki Chikki" chicken restaurant

Mitch: Okay, minimum wagers...paychecks.

Employee: Mitch, aren't we supposed to be making minimum wage? It's the law. My dad told me about it.

Mitch: Never talk to your parents! Seriously, guys, what happens here is sacred. This is a safe place.

P.J.: Wait a minute, "minimum" means the least. We're making less than the least?

Mitch: Okay, doors opening. Let's feed the world, huh?

On the payday of this chicken restaurant, the employees are complaining about the low salary to their boss Mitch. One employee mentions their salary have legal guarantee, intending to ask for a rise of salary. Mitch should answer P.J.'s question. However, he gets off the topic of the conversation and turns to talk about starting work for the sake of escaping this predicament. Thus, he includes irrelevant contents and violates the relation maxim. In this way, the irresponsibility of the boss was revealed, which strengthen amusement.

5.4. Violation of Manner Maxim

"Explicit" and "distinct" are the kernel words of the maxim of manner. The interlocutor is supposed to avoid the information which is vague. Sometimes, people may communicate in a periphrastic way to escape from embarrassing subject. Besides, for the sake of saving the listener's face, the speaker often uses a roundabout and polite way to describe and show their true purposes. Here are some examples.

The third episode in the first season, we can experience the generation of humor from the following dialogue. P.J. tries to convince Gabe that Mrs. Dabney has murdered Mr. Dabney.

P.J.: I heard what I heard, Gabe. Why don't you believe me?

Gabe: Because you're you and you get things wrong.

P.J.: What are you saying? I'm dumb?

Gabe: Well, no. You're just not very...thinky.

P.J.: Gabe, why would you say something like that?

Gabe: Because mom said I can't call you dumb.

P.J. believes that Mrs. Dabney has killed her husband. So, he calls Mrs. Dabney and pretends to be a salesman to confirm, for he wants to convince Gabe. However, this stupid "play" is finally recognized by Mrs. Dabney and finally makes P.J. stupid. In order to express in a roundabout way, Gabe uses a phrase "not thinky" instead of pointing out his stupid action directly. Again, in

the following reply, Gabe explain the reason--mom prohibit him to call P.J. dumb. In this way, the audiences understand the real feeling behind Gabe's words: P.J. is dumb. Gabe provides vague and verbose information and violates the manner maxim, causing the generation of humor.

Sometimes the contradiction information provided by speakers may also lead to humorous effect. Let us experience another typical example. Bob seems surprised after hearing a woman's name, which stimulating Amy's suspicion.

Amy: Who is she?

Bob: She's the last girl I dated before you.

Amy: I'd like to hear more about her bob.

Bob: Oh, look, did I date a lot of girls before you? Yes, sure. Did I leave a trail of broken hearts? Absolutely. But you know what? It was worth it because I saved the best for last. (Face to Amy and hug her tightly)

Amy: Me too. (Get her head rested on Bob's shoulder)

Amy: And I can't wait to meet him.

Bob tries his best to explain. Although he has met lots of girls before, Amy is his true love. After hearing Bob's sweet words, Amy seems to be moved and pleased and replies "Me too", making Bob think that he is her Mr. Right. Then she changes her attitude the next moment by bursting out the last sentence, which indicates a contradiction to the previous reply. Then we audiences can feel her anger. The ambiguous information Amy includes flouts the manner maxim and creates amusing atmosphere.

The author believes that Bob speaks from his heart, revealing his sincere love to Amy and warming the audiences. Actually, this dialogue represents the characteristic of America's culture--showing the love to family members directly. America is an open nation and Americans represent passionate and expansive. This can be a model for Chinese people to express consideration and gratitude to the loved ones, strengthening the warmth of the family and harmony of the society.

It is a really an interesting phenomenon that when different kinds of maxims are violated in the same conversation, for it will absolutely strengthen the effects of humor. We can experience it in the 21st episode. Teddy is surfing the Internet in the kitchen.

Teddy: Oh, you've got to be kidding me. Listen to Spencer's latest status updates. "Just chilling at home." (Says with a shrug and sneer) Who cares?

Mom: Apparently you do.

Teddy: Mom. No...no, I do not. I could care less what my ex-boyfriend is up to.

Teddy: Oh, he hasn't even changed his online status yet. It still says, "In a relationship." He just can't let me go.

Mom: Well, maybe he forgot to change it.

Teddy: Uh, mom, how could he forget? He's online all the time.

Mom: And you know this how?

Teddy: I check his status every hour.

Mom: Well, the important thing is you've moved on.

In this conversation, the maxims of manner and quality are violated. Teddy has broken up with Spencer. When she notices that Spencer has changes his status updates online, she shows an indifferent expression to it. She denied immediately when her mom mentions that she still cares about Spencer. However, the audiences can obviously realize something implied in this dialogue: If Teddy doesn't really care Spencer, why she is still sensitive about Spence's status updates? Thus, amusing effect is generated.

In the following part, Teddy mentions that Spencer is online all the time and replies that she checks his status every hour. Obviously, what she says demonstrates that she still cares about Spencer so much. Contrast to the previous content of this conversation, we see that Teddy lies and provides obscure and inconsistent information. Mom realizes that Teddy still suffers from the shadow of breakup, but for the sake of Teddy's face she just lies in a softer way-- "The important thing is you've moved on." Thus, two kinds of maxims are flouted for three times, generating and strengthening the humorous atmosphere. What's more, the warm love and consideration a mother shows to her baby daughter can be appreciated.

6. Conclusion

As we all know that, humor is necessary and indispensable in our daily life, especially in today's rapidly developing society. Thus, we should pay more attention to it so as to confront challenges in all the aspects of our life. This thesis aims to briefly analyze the generation of humor in some dialogues of an American situation comedy *Good Luck Charlie*, hoping to improve the audiences' appreciation and stimulate people's interest to the importance of humor. Some dialogues are chosen from *Good Luck Charlie* as typical cases to be analyzed respectively according to the violation of the CP. Thus, the reasons why some dialogues amuse audiences has been solved. In other words, audiences can understand how humor is generated by violating the four maxims of the CP in these chosen conversations.

In details, the majority of humor in the chosen dialogues of *Good Luck Charlie* is revealed by violating the four maxims of the CP, namely quantity maxim, quality maxim, relation maxim and manner maxim:

1. Some conversations include lengthy and unnecessary information which seems clumsy and ridiculous, violating the quantity maxim.
2. Dialogues which lack sufficient information seem incomplete and imperfect, thus flouting the quantity maxim and bring humor.
3. Sometimes mendacious and unrealistic contents are deliberately provided by interlocutors in dialogues to create special effects, making audiences feel absurd because it flouts the quality maxim.
4. In order to avoid embarrassment or other forbidden topics, speakers will suddenly mention another topic and change to talk about irrelevant contents. This action violates the relation maxim, making the information funny and amusing.
5. When speakers provide information which contains contradiction or inconformity, they flout the manner maxim. It is the discordance that creates humor.

With the increasing prosperity of the society, people are encountering various kinds of challenges and trouble in their work, life and study. Some of them even feel anxious. Without humor, people may suffer from pain. Thus, people's physical and mental health is inseparable from the help of humor. In sum, we need humor, desperately, to overcome anxiety, complicated trouble, pressure and so on.

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