

Humorous communication

CONTEXTUAL CONSTRAINTS	SPEAKER'S INTENDED PROPOSITIONAL INTERPRETATION	SPEAKER-SUPPORTED NON-PROPOSITIONAL EFFECTS	S- OR H-SUPPORTED PROPOSITIONAL IMPLICATIONS	NON-PROPOSITIONAL EFFECTS GENERATED IN HEARER BEYOND COMM.
<p><i>-Suitability.</i> If the joke is cunningly inserted into the current topic of the conversation, there will be a relevant offset of effects. However, speakers may fail to realise that the joke is not appropriate in the current stage of the conversation.</p> <p><i>-Hearer's background knowledge and beliefs.</i> Telling jokes entails a risk: the possibility that the joke will sharply contradict the hearer's store of beliefs and factual assumptions.</p> <p><i>-Interlocutor's sex.</i> For example, women will not like highly sexist jokes.</p> <p><i>-Sense of humour.</i> The same humorous text may be amusing, disgusting, offensive, etc. depending on overall sense of humour or humour competence.</p> <p><i>-Relationship between the interlocutors.</i> Humour depends on the relationship existing among the interlocutors. Jokes often occur among friends and colleagues, but also between strangers as a discursive tool to break the ice.</p> <p><i>-Hearer's mood.</i> People go through different moods that may also play a part in the outcome of humorous communication.</p> <p><i>-Culture and ethnicity.</i></p> <p><i>-Situational factors (context of utterance production).</i></p>	<p><i>-Reference assignment.</i> The village blacksmith finally found an apprentice willing to work hard at low pay for long hours. The blacksmith immediately began his instructions to the lad, "When I take the shoe out of the fire, I'll lay it on the anvil; and when I nod my head, you hit it with this hammer." The apprentice did just as he was told. Now he's the village blacksmith.</p> <p><i>-Disambiguation.</i> Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone are making a movie about the lives of the great composers. Stallone says "I want to be Mozart." Schwarzenegger says: "In that case... I'll be Bach."</p> <p><i>-Concept adjustment.</i></p> <p><i>-Implicated premises and conclusions.</i> A woman in bed with a man. The phone rings and she answers it. "Yes darling... No problem... OK... See you later." The man: "Who was it?" The woman: "It was my husband. He said he's going to come home very late today because he is in an important meeting with you." a. The man and the woman are lovers. b. The woman's husband has a lover. c. She knows that her husband has a lover. d. Her lover and her husband know each other. e. Her husband does not know that this man is his wife's lover.</p>	<p>-Of course, the main aim of the speaker is to generate in the interlocutor some kind of humorous effect, amusement, entertainment, or pleasurable feelings.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Relaxation of tension within current conversational setting.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Hearer's increased liking towards the speaker upon finding him/her more humorous and funny.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Increased feeling of camaraderie and group cohesion.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Relieved hearer's negative mood, feelings or emotions.</p>	<p>Harry invites his friend John home for dinner. At the dinner table, Harry talks to his wife using terms such as Honey, My Love, Darling, etc. John leans over and says, "I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names. What is the secret?" Harry replies: "To tell you the truth, I forgot this woman's name a couple of years ago and it's a bit awkward to ask now." (Jodłowiec 2015)</p> <p>Upon inferring this joke, assumptions are manifest, for instance those listed in (e.g. a-b), communication problems within marriage (e.g. c-d), and the unfeasibility of long-lasting happiness (e.g. e-f), among others:</p> <p>a. Husbands often exhibit a careless attitude to detail of everyday life. b. Husbands often take it for granted that their wives are part of their lives. c. Husbands and wives often find it difficult to talk to each other about important issues. d. Married couples do not spend much time sharing what they think. e. As the marriage lasts longer, true affection in the marriage decreases. f. After several years, married couples forget what affection is.</p> <p>Few (if any) of these assumptions will end up being represented by the hearer, so a number of assumptions become suddenly manifest (or more manifest) to the hearer, with none or perhaps very few of them being actually represented.</p>	<p>Positive:</p> <p>-Enhanced awareness and extent of mutuality existing between interlocutors.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Feelings of enhanced group membership.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-More fine-grained ability to extract humorous effects.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-A greater sense of identity and self-esteem arising from adequate reaction to intended humorous effects.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-An enhanced awareness of the specificity of one's social group, ethnicity, nationality, and increased overall sense of community.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>-Increased bad opinion about the speaker.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Reduced self-esteem upon being unable to reach the adequate understanding of the joke and its intended effects.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Feelings of non-belonging to group or community.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>-Disgust upon hearing aggressive or nasty jokes.</p>