

THE ANALYSIS OF LAUGH IN A CONVERSATION

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ABSTRACT

Laugh is a common social action that is may treated in many ways. Laugh can be treated as the show of friendship, unity, etc. However, beside its positive effect towards other people, laugh also can be treated as tease, show appropriate feeling to others, and even can be mockery to others. It helps to maintain relationship but also can make that relationship in danger. The purpose of this study is to point out the reasons of the laugh and kinds of laugh appeared in certain conversation. The main purpose of this study is to point out the reasons of the laugh and kinds of laugh appeared in certain conversation using interactional sociolinguistics approach. While the secondary purpose of this study is to show the significance of laugh in a conversation. The analysis of the laugh in this article use the data from a conversation between friends, the conversation happened in the parking lot in the parked car. The participants of the conversation are Fran, Brad, and Dave. The whole conversation has five points where the participants laughing. The focus of the analysis is laugh in the Interactional Sociolinguistics study which point out aspects of the laugh, its purposes, and reasons why it occurs within a particular conversation. However, the writers only focused on the several aspects of laugh which appears in the conversation given. The writers find out that the reasons of laughs are: (1) Resisting the tease provided by others, (2) responding to the laughable provided by other participants in the conversation, (3) to change the environment from Laughing at into laughing with environment, (4) invite other to laughing together. While the kinds of laughs are laughing with, laughing at and laughing along. In conclusion, laugh can have many aspects in it. How people treat it depends on them to use in on different purposes.

Keyword: laugh, conversation, interaction

1. INTRODUCTION

Laugh is considered as natural and spontaneous. however, laugh sometimes considered as unimportant in connection with adulthood life that is serious with a bit sense of humour. In general, laugh in interaction usually uses to display affiliation, friendliness, or even intimacy; in this case, laugh plays an important role in the creation and maintenance of interpersonal relationships (Glenn, 2003:1). Glenn (2003:1) also stated that, when it is the laugh of cruelty and triumph, laugh can be used to mock, intimidate, taunt, and belittle others.

Laugh is a physiological process and a perceptual phenomenon. Everybody do it and shared it. It is behaviour as the response to certain stimuli and an experience involving one's body and emotions. It makes people feel good, and it draws attention for its possible physical and psychic benefits. Laugh is also considered as a communicative action to understand what makes something funny as an indicator of humour or play, a signal of a playful mood, and plays in bringing people closer together or pushing them farther apart. However, it is often overlooked.

The most delivered question in connection with laugh is about the reason of laugh. Glenn (2003) proposed several theories on the reason of laughing:

1. The *superiority/hostility* theory suggests that people laugh when comparing themselves to others and finding themselves stronger, more successful, or at some advantage. Laugh becomes a sign of superiority and domination of other. Superiority theory points out that laugh can have a hostile or competitive element to it.
2. The theory of *incongruity* suggests that laughing results from experiencing the unexpected and inconsistency between beliefs and reality. This means that a person will laugh on something unexpected in the ordinary or in the real world and something odd and against the real world norms. Weeks (1987) stated that Incongruity can be seen as a breaking of expectations of what is to come next.
3. The *relief* theory proposes that laugh appears when a threat is no longer a threat or when freed of some psychological burden. Laugh may come when one escapes a near accident or expects but does not get some bad news. For example, people will laugh after ride a roller coaster.

Glenn (2003) also gave the reason of the laugh in connection with the social factors such as the occurrence of others, the participation of others in laughing, the identity of the participants, what is going on between participants, what the laughable is about, and so on.

The main purpose of this study is to point out the reasons of the laugh and kinds of laugh appeared in certain conversation using interactional

sociolinguistics approach. While the secondary purpose of this study is to show the significance of laugh in a conversation.

2. METHOD

The focus of the analysis is laugh in the Interactional Sociolinguistics study which point out aspects of the laugh, its purposes, and reasons why it occurs within a particular conversation. However, the writers only focused on the several aspects of laugh which appears in the conversation given.

The analysis of the laugh in this article use the data from a conversation between friends, the conversation happened in the parking lot in the parked car. The participants of the conversation are Fran, Brad, and Dave. The whole conversation has five points where the participants laughing. The results of the analysis are divided into several sections, (1) reason of the laugh, and (2) kinds of laugh. In analysing the laugh there are cues that can be used. These cues called *laughable*. Laughable also refer to the object that causes laughing, any referent that draws laugh, something designed to draw laugh. The laugh occurred in five points within the conversation, which are:

First point

25	Brad	(i) No [falling rising tone]. (ii) I, (iii) If I wanted to (iv) I could do French, German, and Russian....
26	Fran	== (i) This year?
27	Brad	== (i) In first year
28	Fran	== (i) Oh this year.
29	Brad	==(i) I could do..(ii) In FIRST year you can do whatever you WANT==
30	Fran	(i) Mmm
31	Brad	==(i) in an Arts Degree.. (ii) as long as you do.. a few General Studies subjects==
32	Dave	== (i) That's what I mean. (ii) And when are you gonna do your General Studies?
33	Brad	(i) I'm doin it NOW!==
34	Fran	(i) Mmm
35	Brad	== (i) That's what I'm talking == about
36	Dave	== (i) And what are your General Studies.
37	Brad	(i) Oh it's... RUBBISH..(ii) One of them is alright, (iii) one of them is actually good.

38	Dave	(i) Yeah but what IS it?
39	Brad	(i) Well I'm thinking (ii) what it is.
NV2	Fran	[laughs]

Second point

38	Dave	(i) Yeah but what IS it?
39	Brad	(i) Well I'm thinking (ii) what it is.
NV2	Fran	[laughs]
40	Dave	(i) History of Scotch bagpipe==playing?
41	Brad	== (i) It's [laughing]... (ii) It's bloody...(iii)... it's Introductory philosophy...sort of stuff. (iv) it's called... (v) I dunno (vi) what it's called. (vii) Th' they've got weird names like "The Pursuit of Human Rationality" of Self and Society" (viii) And I, the one (ix) I think the one that's that's alright is called human Rationality (x) and it's just introductory philosophy. (xi) They talk about...Rationalism an [belches] aah [laughs]
42	Dave	(i) So you gotta pick all those up this year?
43	Brad	(i) I'm doin'em.... at the moment!==

Third point

65	Fran	(i) He's an abstract thinker
66	Brad	(i) Yeah but..(ii) at least he could think abstractly about something That was worth thinking about, like a soil erosion or something
NV3	Fran	[laughs]
67	Brad	(i) That's what I'm== thinking ()
68	Fran	== (i) How to solve the == problem

Fourth point

97	Fran	(i) They were just clerks
98	Brad	(i) Exactly, (ii) so... if they can administer fish (iii) they can Administer bloody school kids.
NV5	Fran	[laughs]

Fifth point

105	Brad	(i) He studied fish. (ii) He studied.. (iii) he was a..... (iv) he was a... Dip..(v) Oh what is it called?.. (vi) P-H-D in Science
106	Fran	(i) Yea
107	Brad	(i) An'e was learning, studying Fisheries (ii) His, his thesis was on the breeding of mullet [laughs] or something

3. DISCUSSION

As stated above, the analysis of the laugh in this article will be divided into several sections, (1) reason of the laugh, and (2) kinds of laugh. The analysis will be described in detail below:

3.1 Reason of the Laugh

There are five points where the laugh has been done within the given conversation. In the first point, **the doer** is Fran (Non-Verbal 2). **The laughable** is teaser to Brad who is still not finishing his study in general study. The laughable is provided by Fran in his clarification to Brad statement (turn 26 – 29). Brad as the butt / victim to the tease try to clarify his statement in reason to erase the tease towards him (turn 29). The attempt to laugh is already started in the turn number 30 where Fran mumbling ‘Mmm’ to hold his laugh. However, in turn 32 Dave repeated the teaser to Brad with additional jest. Brad responds to Dave’s teaser (turn 37 and 39) then make Fran **laugh**.

First point

25	Brad	(i) No [falling rising tone]. (ii) I, (iii) If I wanted to (iv) I could do French, German, and Russian....
26	Fran	== (i) This year?
27	Brad	== (i) In first year
28	Fran	== (i) Oh this year.
29	Brad	==(i) I could do..(ii) In FIRST year you can do whatever you WANT==
30	Fran	(i) Mmm
31	Brad	==(i) in an Arts Degree.. (ii) as long as you do.. a few General Studies subjects==
32	Dave	== (i) That’s what I mean. (ii) And when are you gonna do your General Studies?
33	Brad	(i) I’m doin it NOW!==
34	Fran	(i) Mmm
35	Brad	== (i) That’s what I’m talking == about
36	Dave	== (i) And what are your General Studies.

37	Brad	(i) Oh it's... RUBBISH..(ii) One of them is alright, (iii) one of them is actually good.
38	Dave	(i) Yeah but what IS it?
39	Brad	(i) Well I'm thinking (ii) what it is.
NV2	Fran	[laughs]

In the Second point, **the doer** is Brad. There are two reasons that can be proposed here, the first is Brad laughs as the respond for laughable provided by Dave (turn 40) about Brad's subject of study. The second reason is Brad laughs in order to change his position as the Butt/ victim of Fran and Dave's tease. Brad's turn about his subject of study after he **laughs along** with Fran is an attempt to change the environment from **Laughing at** him into **laughing with** environment. Brad's attempt also marked with laughing in the end of his turn (turn 41). However, here Brad failed to change his position because Dave keep tease him (turn 42).

Second point

38	Dave	(i) Yeah but what IS it?
39	Brad	(i) Well I'm thinking (ii) what it is.
NV2	Fran	[laughs]
40	Dave	(i) History of Scotch bagpipe==playing?
41	Brad	== (i) It's [laughing]... (ii) It's bloody...(iii)... it's Introductory philosophy...sort of stuff. (iv) it's called... (v) I dunno (vi) what it's called. (vii) Th' they've got weird names like "The Pursuit of Human Rationality" of Self and Society" (viii) And I, the one (ix) I think the one that's that's alright is called human Rationality (x) and it's just introductory philosophy. (xi) They talk about...Rationalism an [belches] aah [laughs]
42	Dave	(i) So you gotta pick all those up this year?
43	Brad	(i) I'm doin'em.... at the moment!==

In the third point, Fran acts as **the doer** of the laugh. The laugh happens as the responds for **laughable** which is provided by Brad. The laughable here is about Brad's feeling towards Philosophers. Fran do **laughing at** Brad because of his statement about philosophers is weird.

Third point

65	Fran	(i) He's an abstract thinker
66	Brad	(i) Yeah but..(ii) at least he could think abstractly about something That was worth thinking about, like a soil erosion or something
NV3	Fran	[laughs]
67	Brad	(i) That's what I'm thinking ()
68	Fran	== (i) How to solve the == problem

Fran again act as **the doer** of laughing in the fourth point. The laugh again happens because dumb statement which is given by Brad (turn 98). Here, Fran **laughing at** Brad.

Fourth point

97	Fran	(i) They were just clerks
98	Brad	(i) Exactly, (ii) so... if they can administer fish (iii) they can Administer bloody school kids.
NV5	Fran	[laughs]

The last laugh happens between Fran and Brad. At this fifth point, Fran and Brad are **laughing together** in case of Laughable in the form of jokes provided by Brad. Here, Brad is successfully change his position as the victim of **laughing at** and makes Fran **laughing with** him. **First laugh** by Brad is the invitation for other participants (Dave and Fran), this invitation then accepted by Fran.

Fifth point

105	Brad	(i) He studied fish. (ii) He studied.. (iii) he was a.... (iv) he was a... Dip..(v) Oh what is it called?.. (vi) P-H-D in Science
106	Fran	(i) Yea
107	Brad	(i) An'e was learning, studying Fisheries (ii) His, his thesis was on the breeding of mullet [laughs] or something
NV6	Fran	[laughs]

In conclusion, in the given conversation the writer identify several reasons of laughing. Those reasons are: (1) Resisting the tease provided by others, (2) responding to the laughable provided by other participants in the conversation, (3)

to change the environment from **Laughing at** into **laughing with** environment, (4) invite other to **laughing together**.

3.2 Kinds of Laugh

Based on the description about the reason of laugh in point (1), the writers then identify the kinds of laugh which occur in the given conversation.

a. Laughing with

This kind of laugh can be found on the fifth point of laughing. Laughing along happens between Brad and Fran which are shared laughing on the laughable provided by Brad. The person who laughs first is Brad and then followed by Fran.

b. Laughing at

Laughing at in the given conversation happens three times. The doer is Fran, he is laughing at Brad. The laughing at event happens three times because the victim (Brad) keeps repeating his error.

c. Laughing along

This kind of laughing is done by Brad in the second conversation. The laughing along here marks as the second and third laughing, as he responds to laughing done by Fran in Non-verbal turn 2.

4. CONCLUSION

Laugh is a common social action that is may treated in many ways. Laugh can be treated as the show of friendship, unity, etc. However, beside its positive effect towards other people, laugh also can be treated as tease, show appropriate feeling to others, and even can be mockery to others.

Based on the analysis of the given conversation, the reasons for the laugh are: (1) Resisting the tease provided by others, (2) responding to the laughable provided by other participants in the conversation, (3) to change the environment from Laughing at into laughing with environment, (4) invite other to laughing together. The kinds of the laugh which are occurred are: (a) Laughing with, (b) Laughing at, and (c) Laughing along.

In conclusion, laugh can have many aspects in it. How people treat it depends on them to use in on different purposes. It helps to maintain relationship but also can make that relationship in danger.

5. REFERENCE

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