



## **ANALYSIS OF SARCASM FOUND IN KEITH ALBERSTADT'S COMEDY**

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### **Abstract**

Sarcasm (sarcasm) is one of the figurative language or language styles most used with the intention to mock or tease others. Sarcasm can be observed in daily conversations and in reality shows and stand-up comedy. One of the world's stand-up comedians who use sarcasm in his humor is Keith Alberstadt. The purpose of this paper is to explain the types of sarcasm used by Keith Alberstadt in his stand-up comedy. The theory used to analyze the types of sarcasm is the theory of Elizabeth Camp (1994). There are four types of sarcasm classified by Elizabeth Camp namely propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, like'-prefixed sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm. The results of this paper show Keith Alberstadt uses four types of sarcasm with different presentation. The most dominant type of sarcasm is the illocutionary sarcasm with as many as (37%). Other dominant sarcasm types are lexical sarcasm (32%), propositional sarcasm (26%) and the least is like'-prefixed sarcasm (5%). It can be concluded that illocutionary sarcasm is the most dominant type of sarcasm used by comedian Keith Alberstadt in his stand-up comedy.

**Key words:** Sarcasm, Stand-up Comedy, Keith Alberstadt

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Language is an instrument that people use to communicate each other. According to Sari, Refnaldi and Rosa (2013:31) “language is a tool of the basic for human to communication that is important in human live.” Through the language, human can interact with others in societies in order to maintain their social relationship. Language is matter in everyday activities and used as a means to express human feelings and thoughts. According to Trudgill (1995:2) there are two very important aspects of language behaviour based on social point of view: first is the function of language in building social relationships, second is in conveying information about the speaker. In establishing the social relationship and conveying information, people often use language style. Language style is a way of expressing thoughts through language that usually shows the spirit and personality of the author (language user). The styles of language are such as irony and sarcasm. According to (Kreuz and Glucksberg, 1989) “sarcasm is verbal irony that expresses negative and critical attitudes toward persons or events Sarcasm is commonly known as language styles of society. Sarcasm is a figurative language that has a very harsh and painful meaning. According to McDonald's (in Dauphin:486) "sarcasm is a form of indirect expression intentionally used to produce a certain dramatic effect on the listener.” Many sarcastic remarks and actions can create funny effects and make people laugh when it is being used in stand-up comedy. In society, a similar trend also grows when people speak informally, like the discussions in this paper, found on stand-up comedy. A stand-up comedy is the performance of comedian appearance intentionally performed alone on stage in front of the audience.

Connection with a stand-up comedy on reality shows that reflects the use of sarcasm, the writer decided to investigate one of the stand-up comedians in America, one of the popular stand-up comedians, Keith Alberstadt. He is the best example for observing sarcasm use. Because of two reasons, the first reason is that comedian Keith Alberstadt is a comedian who often uses sarcasm in his humor during his stand-up comedy, the second is comedian Keith Alberstadt uses his sarcastic comedy in live performance at a stand-up comedy freely without any limitations. The sarcasm arises where the ethics and the linguistic order are not overly concerned, the most important is the meaning or message by the comedian can be caught clearly by the audience that is through sarcasm.

There are some researchers who had done research about sarcasm. The first, about sarcasm is conducted by Mega Ayu Intan Permatasari (2013) entitled “*Sarcasm Language Analysis on Crime Sections Solo Pos Newspaper Edition September-October 2013.*” In her research, she discussed the language style of sarcasm in criminal rubric of Solo Pos newspaper on September-October 2013 and described the writer's specification in Solo Pos edition September-October 2013. The object of this research was the sarcasm style in the criminal rubric on Solo Pos newspaper edition September-October 2013. Next, a research about sarcasm was done by Aprilliawati Gina (2010) entitled “*An Analysis study of Figures of Speech: Euphemism, Sarcasm and Irony in Poem Titled Canterbury Tales by*

*Geoffrey Chaucer*". The object of the study was a poem from Geoffrey Chaucer. She discussed the analysis of speech: euphemism, irony, and sarcasm found in poem and she analysed the meaning of the found in a poem titled Canterbury's fairy tale by Geoffrey Chaucer. Next, a research about sarcasm was done by Luuk Lagerwerf (2007) entitled "*Irony and Sarcasm in Advertisements: Effects of Relevant Inappropriateness*". The object of the study was an advertisements. The aim of this research was to examine the reader effects of irony and sarcasm when used as destabilizing tropes in advertisements.

Another researcher is Irene Dinari (2015) entitled "*The Types and Markers of Sarcasm in the Novel the Return of Sherlock Holmes*". The object in this study was a novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Irene's research aims to illustrate the types of sarcasm and the markers in novel the Return of Sherlock Holmes. It also aimed to assist reader in interpreting sarcasm while reading the novel the Return of Sherlock Holmes. There are some similarities and differences between previous researches and present research about sarcasm. The similarity is all researchers analyse the language style of sarcasm. However, from those previous studies, the differences can be found from what previous researchers focused on. Mega's research focused on the study of sarcasm used in criminal rubric of Solo Pos newspaper. Then Aprilliawati's research focused on the study of sarcasm in poem from Geoffrey Chaucer. Next, Lagerwerf's research focused on the use of sarcasm and irony in advertisement. Next, Irene's research focused on the types and markers of sarcasm in novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Based on the explanation, in the stand-up comedy, sometimes there is a freedom of expression. Sarcasm can express satirize, joke and ridiculous but still considered being criticism. Generally sarcasm is used to show speaker feeling but it depends on the context where sarcasm used. The speaker uses sarcasm expression based on the purpose of their utterance. So, in this paper the researcher wants to make analysis about the analysis of the types of sarcasm found in Keith Alberstadt's comedy.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research was a descriptive research, because the researcher collects the data through classifying the types and analyzing the meaning from the types of sarcasm. The aim of this research is to analyze the types of sarcasm that found in Keith Alberstadt's comedy. The data of sarcasm in this research were taken from transcript "Keith Alberstadt's Comedy" in YouTube. The researcher took 4 samples of data in video from Sarcastic Humour - Comedian Keith Alberstadt (Published on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2012), The Kid Who Loves Bedtime (Published on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2015), Mixed Message Wedding Gift (Published on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016), Elevators for Dummies (Published on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017) to be analysed.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

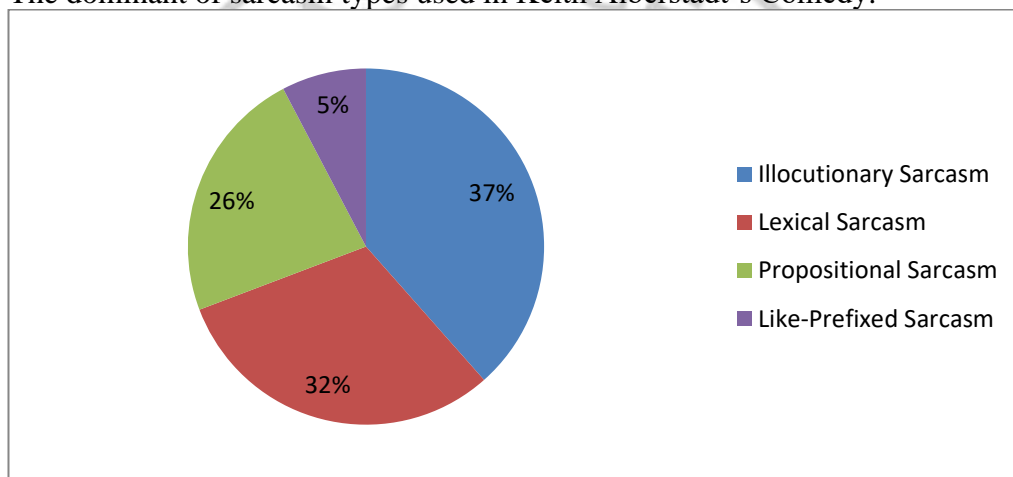
### **1. Research Finding**

The researcher found four types of sarcasm in Keith Alberstadt's comedy, the result as shown in the table below:

Table percentage of types of sarcasm in Keith Alberstadt’s Comedy.

No	Types of Sarcasm	Number of Data	Percentage
1	Propositional Sarcasm	3	26%
2	Lexical Sarcasm	4	32%
3	Like’ -Prefixed Sarcasm	1	5%
4	Illocutionary Sarcasm	5	37%
Total		13	100%

The dominant of sarcasm types used in Keith Alberstadt’s Comedy.



The researcher found that the first dominant type of sarcasm found in Keith Alberstadt’s comedy was Illocutionary Sarcasm with a percentage of 37%. Second dominant types of sarcasm that mostly used by Keith Alberstadt was Lexical sarcasm with percentage of 32%. And the third types of sarcasm that used by Keith Alberstadt was Propositional Sarcasm with a percentage of 26%. Last types of sarcasm that used by Keith Alberstadt was Like’-Prefixed Sarcasm with a percentage of 5%.

## 2. Discussion

Based on the final finding, the researcher found that the first dominant type of sarcasm found in Keith Alberstadt’s comedy was illocutionary sarcasm with a percentage of 37%. It is preferred since it is the most Keith Alberstadt used in his comedy often. Because in the illocutionary sarcasm, there are general implicative even in special spheres, such as the utterance of praise, compassion, pity and bitterness that is used by comedians Keith Albersatd in his comedy without having to hold on to the context that exists.

Second dominant types of sarcasm that mostly used by Comedian Keith Alberstadt was lexical sarcasm with percentage of 32% because in lexical sarcasm the usage of sarcasm more heard natural and clear to the extreme statements of conventional normative relationships. And the third dominant types of sarcasm that used by Comedian Keith Alberstadt was propositional sarcasm with a percentage of 26%. In this type of sarcasm leads directly to the intent or purpose of the speaker who is intended to "satirize", and between the statement of proposition and the intent of the speaker is actually opposite. Last the types of sarcasm that used by Comedian Keith Alberstadt was like'-prefixed sarcasm with a percentage of 5%. like'-prefixed sarcasm has the least amount due because Keith Alberstadt does not use much prefixed like in his comedy.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

##### **1. Conclusion**

In this research Keith Alberstadt used four types of sarcasm; they are propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, like'-prefixed sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm. From those four types of sarcasm, illocutionary sarcasm places the highest position as the dominant type used of other types. The reason Keith Alberstadt used this type because it is the most liked by the audience and the most Keith Alberstadt used in his comedy often.

##### **2. Suggestion**

In this paper, the researcher have analysed the types of sarcasm and for the next researchers, the researcher suggests that they are could describe the function of sarcasm. Then the researcher also suggests other researchers that might be interested in analyzing about sarcasm could continue this analysis from other sources or objects that can be used in analyzing sarcasm such as: movies, songs, and reality shows. The researcher also suggests that sarcasm can only use in stand-up comedy not in the daily activities.

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