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# THE PERCEPTION ON USING DARK JOKES IN STUDENT DAILY CONVERSATION

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## Abstract

*In this modern era, people can easily get information from anywhere and anytime. People can also express their opinions and thoughts about a topic, for example about jokes. There are so many genres or types of jokes, one of them is dark jokes. Dark joke is a form of humor involving a twist or joke making the joke seen as offensive, harsh, horrid. Because of that, some people argue that dark jokes should not be used in daily life. The aim of this research is to analyze the students' perception about using dark jokes in daily conversation English Department of Universitas Bandar Lampung and analyze some aspects of perception that affect students' perception about using dark jokes in daily conversation. This research used case study method. The research was done at English Education Study Program Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Universitas Bandar Lampung in all semester. Data gathering was done by doing questionnaire and interview to nine students. The data was analyzed by combining the result from the questionnaire and interview. The results of this research elucidated that they have mix perception towards dark joke and using it in daily conversation. Some of them concur and some of them disagree that dark joke can be used in daily conversation.*

**Keywords:** Perception, communication, dark joke, daily conversation.

## INTRODUCTION

In communicating, people can convey their perceptions and opinions about something. The communication which occurs among people is often direct or oral speech. (Asakereh and Dehghannezhad as cited by Harpain, H et al., 2019). Especially in this modern era, people can express their perceptions not only when communicating directly conversely, also online on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and other platforms.

In philosophy, psychology, and cognitive science, perception is the process of attaining awareness or understanding of sensory information. Socrates was the first to introduce critical thinking as a

teaching method and perception. He emphasized the importance of inquiring probing questions to get people thinking before acknowledging any opinion, as well as the importance of questioning, pursuing evidence, processing arguments carefully, examining the main assumptions and concepts, and discovering inferences on what is being said and what is being done (Socrates as cited by Sidabalok and Fitriana, 2018).

Susan (2012) defines perception as an individual's view making it a powerful driving force for action. Processing sensory information and relating to past experiences enables one to create a lens in which to view the world through a filter of sociocultural influences.

According to the constructivist theory, Perception is a process in extracting the sensory stimuli it is the end product of where the stimulus, observer knowledge and internal hypothesis are met (Demuth, 2013:31). Walgito (1991: 50) stated that there are three main aspects of perception; Cognitive (Knowledge, expectations, ways of thinking or gaining knowledge, and past experiences), Affective (Components of feelings, individual emotional states, and evaluations of advantageous and detrimental based on a person's emotional factors), and Conation or Psychomotor (Motivation, attitudes, and behavior or activity).

There are many topics that can be debated in a conversation, for example jokes. Jokes themselves can be divided into many types and genres, one of which is dark jokes. Dark jokes is a form of humor involving a twist or joke making the joke seen as offensive, harsh, horrid. Therefore, some people argue that dark jokes should not be used in daily conversation.

Most people in Indonesia believes that Dark satire or Dark Jokes is a sort of joke that is taboo to be used. Despite the fact that it is taboo to utilize, dark jokes in Indonesia itself have started to be acknowledged by certain people. There are a few comics who utilize dark jokes as their material, such as Coki Pardede, Tretan Muslim and Marshel Widiyanto. Not only when they use it in their stand-up comedy performances, they also use it on social media for some occasion.

According to Bucaria (2008), A dark joke is said to focus at "making fun of situations that are usually regarded as tragic, such as death, sickness, disability, and extreme violence, or of the people involved or subject to them'. Importantly,

dark comedy or dark joke does not necessarily make fun of (i.e., ridicule or disparage) tragic situations, even if it is inspired by them and relevant to them (Gournelos and Greene, 2011). As a result, not every dark joke is intentionally offensive and/or qualifies as a "sick" joke, which combines a gruesome topic with an innocuous one (e.g., children's games) or associates a dramatic event with a taboo topic (e.g., sex, disability, religion, and disease).

Susan (2010) stated conversation is a joint activity in which two or more participants use linguistic forms and nonverbal signals to communicate interactively.

Dialogues are conversations between two participants (although the terms dialogue and conversation are often used interchangeably). According to Levinson's influential text book (1983: 284), conversation is "the predominant kind of talk in which two or more participants freely alternate in speaking, which generally occurs outside specific institutional settings". Auli (2000) stated that in everyday or daily conversation, there are normally no recognizable phases, and no formal procedures (other than the local rules underlying turn taking) to guide the speakers through the event.

People have their own perception of dark jokes. There are some pros and cons about dark jokes themselves and the use in daily conversations. Because of these perception differences and the uniqueness of dark jokes, which can, in my opinion, replace emotional release. Subsequently, this study was carried out to ascertain people's perceptions of using dark jokes in daily conversation.

## METHODOLOGY

This research uses Qualitative descriptive research design. Meanwhile, it uses questionnaire and interview as the way of collecting the data needed. In this study, the researcher analyzed students' perception towards dark jokes and what if it is used in daily conversation. Its study also uses total sampling technique in selecting the participants which resulting 52 students of from all semesters of English Education of University of Bandar Lampung. There are 16 statements in the questionnaire to

get a general perception about dark jokes in the forms of Google Forms. Then, 14 questions in the interview questions to gain more information related to their perception about dark jokes and the used in daily conversation and they will respond it via WhatsApp. At the end of this study, the data will be analyzed and evaluate based on the data analysis technique and clarifying into clear description. The researcher had several indicators in questioning and interviewing the students, there are:

Working Definition	Aspects	Indicators
<p><b><u>Perception:</u></b> Process of receiving information through the senses which is then processed and understood by the individual which is then reflected in his attitude when responding to that information.</p>	<p><b><u>Cognitive:</u></b> Refers to the process of knowing as well as to the knowledge itself and everything that is obtained from the thoughts of the individual actors of the perception.</p>	1. The understanding about dark joke
		2. The platform in knowing dark joke
		3. Student opinion towards dark joke
	<p><b><u>Affective:</u></b> Matter of feeling components towards certain objects as well as everything that is advantageous based on emotional factors.</p>	4. The feeling when hearing or seeing dark joke
		5. Student feeling when using dark joke
		6. The influence of emotional state in student opinion about the dark joke
	<p><b><u>Psychomotor:</u></b> Concerns the individual's motivation, attitude, behavior or activity in accordance with his perception.</p>	7. Attitudes transformation after understanding the dark joke
		8. Behavior transformation after understanding the dark joke

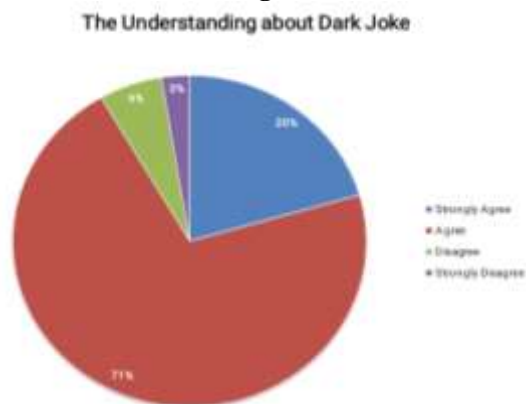
**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

This section describes about the result and discussion of the data that has been collected by the researcher. The result divides into two based on the instruments; Questionnaires and Interview.

**Questionnaire**

The questionnaire consisted of 16 statements and the answer used Likert scale 4 points survey which is are Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The use of Likert scale is appropriate with the aim of this study which is to know respondents' opinions or perceptions toward Dark Joke.

• **The Understanding about Dark Joke**



There are 3 statements included in this indicator. 91% of the respondents' answers agree. It means that they have already understood about dark joke itself. Then only 9% of them answers disagree which means that and maybe they don't understand about what dark joke is about before. Conversely There were 5 students who answered disagree in the first statement Conversely, answered agreed in this statement. This means they understand what a dark joke is Conversely, they don't know the general

meaning of dark joke itself. Based on the

The Platform in Knowing Dark Joke



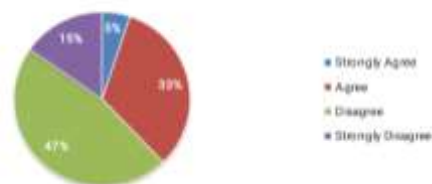
result above, it can be concluded that most of the respondents' understanding about dark joke is high.

• **The Platform in knowing Dark Joke**

This indicator is about where they know dark joke whether from social media, friends or other source or place. There are 2 statements included in this indicator. 79% of the respondents' answers agree that they know dark joke from social media and their friends. However, 21% of the respondents' answers disagree. It means that they do not find dark joke in their social media, their friends do not talk about dark joke, or they know dark joke from other sources apart from their friends' social media like Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, etc.

• **Student Opinion towards Dark Joke**

Student Opinion towards Dark Joke



In the Student opinion towards dark joke's indicator, there are 2 statements included. In the first statement, 26,9% of respondents' answers agree and 73,1% students. It means most of them think that dark jokes cannot be used in their

daily conversation. In the second statement, 17,3% responds agree 82,7% responding disagree. It can be concluded that the majority of the students do not think that dark joke can be accepted in general society. In the third statement, 50% answers agree and 50% answers disagree which means that half of the respondents think that the illustration in the dark joke relates to their life and half of them dark joke itself does not relate to their life.

• **The Feeling when Hearing or Seeing Dark Joke**

The Feeling when Hearing or Seeing Dark Joke



There are 2 statements included in this indicator. 51% of the respondents agree that they feel happy when hearing and seeing dark joke in Instagram, Facebook, or their friends. However, 49% students' answers disagree. It can be said that they do not feel happy when seeing or hearing dark joke from their friends, social media or other platform.

• **Student Feeling when Using Dark Joke**

Student Feeling when Using Dark Joke



There is only one statement which is included in this indicator. In this statement, More students answered disagree than those who answered agree. 29% students answer agree that they are happy when using dark joke in daily communication or conversation. However, 71% of them answer disagree. This means they are not happy when using dark joke in daily conversation for some reason.

• **Influence of Emotional State in Student Opinion about the Dark Joke**

The Influence of Emotional State in Student Opinion about the Dark Joke



There are 2 statements that are included in this indicator. 67% of the respondents agree that their mood can affect themselves in responding a dark joke and dark joke itself can affect their mood whether it is advantageous to detrimental mood or vice versa. However, 33% of the students disagree. It can be said that mood is not affecting themselves in responding a dark joke and dark joke does not affect their mood after all.

• **Attitudes Transformation after Understanding the Dark Joke**

Attitudes Transformation after Understanding the Dark Joke



There are 2 statements that are included in this indicator. In the first statement, the comparison between those who agree and those who disagree is only two percent apart. 48% students' answers agree that after understanding dark joke, they become more humorous. However, 52% of them answers disagree. It means after understanding dark joke, they do not feel that they are becoming more humorous. In the second statement, 67,3% students' responds agree. It can be said that they are only using dark joke to the friends or persons that understand about dark joke. Then, 32,7% students responding disagree. This means that they are not using dark joke to the friends or persons that understand about dark joke.

- **Behavior Transformation after Understanding the Dark Joke**

Behavior Transformation after Understanding the Dark Joke



There is one statement included in this indicator. In this last statement, only 14% participants answers agree that after understanding about dark joke, they become less care if their friends or other person got offended or not when using dark joke in daily conversation. However, 86% students' responds disagree. It can be said that after understanding about dark joke, they are not becoming less care if their friends or other person got offended or not when using dark joke in daily conversation.

### **Interview**

In order to support the data from the questionnaire, interview section is conducted right after. The data from interview are got from 9 respondents which are students of FKIP UBL. There are 14 questions for this interview. The interview section was conducted the themes or categories of questions that was being inquired about students' perception towards using Dark Jokes in daily conversation in English Department of Universitas Bandar Lampung. This interview has a purpose to add some detail information about the findings from the instruments before which is questionnaire. Here is the result of interview based on the indicators:

- **The Understanding about Dark Joke**

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were various related the understanding about dark joke. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

..... *dark jokes themselves are **jokes or humor** that discuss **taboo matters**, usually **negative things** (NU1)*

*Dark joke is a joke that discusses rather **unusual issues** such as jokes that sometimes is **not normal** for many people. (DN1)*

From those statements, it can be seen that most of them understand that dark joke is a type of jokes that talk about some taboo things that usually society did not joke about like skin, religion, and race.

*Dark jokes that I often hear are like **missing parts of body or disability** and related to **religion** (interview - AR3)*

*I see **racist jokes** more often .... (DN3)*

From those statements, it can be concluded that most of them often see a



kind of dark joke that joking about disabilities and racist or discrimination.

.... *So the limit is looking at someone's state. So like that. (AH9)*

..... *I have a **limitation** Conversely, to a friend who is really close, there are no restrictions (DN9)*

From those statements, it can be seen that all of them is using a limitation or restriction like seeing their emotion state in using dark joke to other persons. However, some of them does not use a restriction when using dark joke only to their closest friends.

From all of the answers above, it can be concluded that their perception about dark joke is a joke which discusses taboo issues in society, such as disabilities, SARA, broken home conditions, etc. And also, they have some restrictions if they want to use it.

- **The Platform in knowing Dark Joke**

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were same related to the platform in knowing dark joke. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

*I know about the dark joke from social media like Instagram, Facebook and my friends too (AR2)*

..... *Conversely, I know that dark joke content is from Instagram and also YouTube (AH2)*

From those statements, it can be seen that most of them know about dark joke by a social media like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and others. Then, some of them know dark joke from their friends as well. From the answers of the interview, almost all of them know the dark joke itself from social media such as Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. There are only a few people know the dark joke from their friends.

- **Student Opinion towards Dark Joke**

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were same related to opinion towards dark joke. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

..... *"How come it's like me?", "Just like my situation," "then what does he want to say" "Wow, it's really like me, like my condition" That's why I can say that it is related to personal life. (AH14)*

From that statement, it can be seen that some of them thinks that dark joke is related to their personal life.

..... *if it's in a hangout or in an informal setting, it is fine to use ..... If it can be used on a daily basis, it is possible Conversely, that must be in accordance with the situation and conditions. (AH10)*

*I think dark jokes cannot be used in daily conversation because we are in a universal environment, various kinds of thought patterns cannot be put together (AS10)*

From those statements, it can be seen that all of them think dark joke can be used in daily conversation based on the place, situation and condition. In their opinion, dark joke cannot be used in a formal situation such as meetings, learning and etc. It can be used in an informal place and hangout session.

..... *because not everyone has the same background knowledge about dark jokes. Not everyone knows what dark jokes are and what context they are in, so it would be very sensitive to use them in the community. (AH13)*

*No, because things like feminism are still difficult to accept in the general public. .... maybe for the younger generation it's fine. Conversely, for the elders, it can't (DN13)*

From those statement, it can be seen that dark joke cannot be accepted in society because of different background of generation. It can be accepted in young generation, Conversely, for older generation it is hard to be accepted because it is very sensitive to use it in the society.

From their answers it can be concluded that they all use certain restrictions when using it such as not offending things related to the other person. For example, not using dark jokes about a disability to someone with a disability, or about death to a person who does not have parents, etc. Conversely, they have mixed perception about using dark joke in daily conversation and can be accepted in society and also accepted in society, some of them think that it can be used in daily conversation, some of them disagree that it can be used in daily conversation and be accepted in society, and few of them think that it can or cannot be in daily conversation and can be accepted in society based on the situation and conditions.

- **The Feeling when Hearing or Seeing Dark Joke**

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were same related to opinion towards dark joke. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

*I feel **unhappy** when I **hear** or **see** dark jokes because I don't think such things **should be laughed at** (interview - NU4)*

*..... just for **entertainment** it's **quite entertaining** and I like it. (Interview - AH4)*

From those statements, it can be seen that some of students feels happy when hearing or seeing dark joke Conversely,

some of them do not feel happy when hearing or seeing dark joke.

From the answers of the interview, they have mixed perception about what they feel when seeing or hearing dark joke. Some of them feels happy when hearing or seeing a dark joke because the mood is advantageous and they have already known that it is just a joke. And some of them does not feel happy when seeing or hearing dark joke because it is not funny and should not be laughed about.

- **Student Feeling when Using Dark Joke**

Based on the interview responses on this indicator, they have mixed perception about what they feel when using dark joke.

*No, because I'm afraid that **other people** will be **offended**. (DN6)*

*..... on **social media**, I have a **happy feeling**. Conversely, in **real life**, I'm afraid to **offend** others. (AH5)*

From those statements, it can be seen that almost all of them feels unhappy when using dark joke because it can offend someone who do not understand about the dark joke. A few of them feels happy when using it Conversely, in specific condition like in social media or to the persons that understand about dark joke.

- **Influence of Emotional State in Student Opinion about the Dark Joke**

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were various related to the influence of emotional state. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

*Mood **can** influence me in **responding** to a dark joke because I think a **person's***

*response to something depends on his mood (NU7)*

..... *when my mood is detrimental, I feel that dark jokes are not funny (AN7)*

From those statements, it can be seen that a mood can affect their perception toward dark joke itself. When the mood is detrimental, it makes dark joke is not funny. Conversely, when the mood is advantageous, dark joke can be a funny joke.

*if the context is like about racial issue /race, it can affect the mood ... Conversely, if it's for example about parents or physicality it doesn't matter (interview - DN7)*

..... *From advantageous to detrimental mood, maybe because the jokes are too dark, so people think it's no longer a joke, instead they are offensive (NR7)*

From those statements, it can be seen that dark joke can and cannot affect their mood. Dark joke can affect their mood whether the mood is advantageous to detrimental or vice versa based on the context of the dark joke.

Based on the interview responses, it can be seen that students' perceptions in terms of influence of emotional state are whether mood can affect their perception about dark joke and whether dark joke can affect their mood.

#### • Attitude Transformation after Understanding the Dark Joke

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were various related to their attitude and also its transformation after understanding dark joke itself. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

..... *So, I am not easily upset or offended by knowing and understanding the dark joke itself. (AH11)*

..... *I became more humorous after knowing the dark joke itself (AR11)*

From those statements, it can be seen that dark joke is affecting their attitude. It can affect their attitude in responding to a dark joke such as not being easily offended, becoming more humorous, being careful in using jokes, and etc.

*I don't use dark jokes to a person who don't understand, they will be offended, angry, and even they will cause a chaos (NU6)*

*I use it to friends who understand because they will understand that if I perform a dark joke, they only think of it as a joke until sometimes they throw a dark joke back. (AS6)*

From those statements, it can be seen that dark joke is used only to the friends that is really closed to them. It is because if they used a dark joke on someone is not a close friend to them or a random person, it will offend them or even make them caused a chaos.

Based on the interview responses, it elucidates that dark joke can affect their attitudes. For some people dark joke make them become more humorous and easier to be entertained. One of them become more tolerance and does not get offended easily.

#### • Behavior Transformation after Understanding the Dark Joke

From the results of the interview, we can see that the answers were various related to their behavior and its transformation after understanding dark joke. Following are example of students who answered statements on this indicator.

*No, dark jokes have no effect on my own behavior. In fact, the effect is to protect other people's feelings. (Interview - AH12)*

*Dark jokes affect my behavior. I am becoming more picky about choosing jokes. (NU12)*

Based on the interview responses on this indicator, they have mixed perception about whether dark joke can affect their behavior or not. Almost all of them feels that dark joke does not affect their behavior at all. Only a few of them dark joke affects their behavior, like they are being more picky in choosing a joke.

## CONCLUSION

In this modern era, people can express their opinions and thoughts about a topic, for example about jokes. Of the many types of jokes, there is one that is called dark joke, dark joke may be said to aim at 'making fun of situations usually regarded as tragic, such as death, sickness, disability, and extreme violence, or of the people involved or subject to them (Bucaria, 2008) By conducting this research, researcher gets some points about what are students' perceptions toward using dark joke in daily conversation and what aspects of perception that affect students' perception about using dark jokes in daily conversation.

Based on the entire result, there are 3 aspects that influence a perception towards using dark joke in daily conversation, Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor. Cognitive concerns about the knowledge of dark joke like their understanding about dark joke, the platform where they know about dark joke, and also their opinion about dark joke itself and what if it used in daily conversation. Affective concerns about the feeling about dark joke. It can be about the feeling when hearing or seeing dark joke, the feeling when using dark joke in communication, the influence of

their feelings in responding dark joke, and the influence of dark joke to their mood or feeling. Psychomotor concerns about the motivation, attitude, and behavior transformation after understanding a dark joke.

Furthermore, I honestly said that Dark joke is not recommended to be used in daily conversations because even though many people already understand dark jokes, Conversely, because of differences in background culture, one's mood, and also, their understanding of dark jokes is different. So, it can make the person that we spoke with will feel offended because of dark joke itself.

In this section, there are some points that the researcher wants to suggest. First, dark joke should not be used in a formal situation. Because during a formal situation, we must be serious and must be polite in speaking. When used in informal situations, such as parties, gatherings with friends and other informal situations, dark jokes can be used in daily conversation with your friends. Second, dark joke can make you learn about the culture of joke that exists abroad. Maybe you will see a dark joke that is about disabilities or violence, Conversely, there are so many dark jokes about the culture of joke culture that exists abroad, what's going on in other country and so on.

For the future study, it will be better if the study will be conducted to explore not only students' perception toward it, just like this study do Conversely, also teachers' perception toward using dark joke not only in daily conversation Conversely, also in the classroom. The further study needs to investigate what kinds of dark joke that can be used in the classroom based on the perspective of students and teacher.

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