

# Linguistic Analysis: Humorous English Erotic Jokes in an Instagram Account

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## Abstract

Humor is essential to make something forbidden or taboo acceptable. One example can be seen in sexual acts/relationships. It can only be acceptable to be talked out loud when it is used as joking material. Joking can only be done if the speaker or the hearer has the competence of telling and understanding jokes. Jokes also can only be understood in some contexts. In telling jokes, the speaker must follow and understand some maxims by Grice. It is because violating the joking mode of maxims can make the joke fail to be understood. This research tries to analyze erotic jokes found in an Instagram account @tarablairball. It is descriptive-qualitative research that tries to revisit and compare this analysis by doing similar research to Wijana (2022). The data taken are 80 first erotic jokes since she first made content about it. From the analysis of 80 erotic jokes found in the data source. There are some categories of jokes from the perspective of linguistics. It is found that there are 29 metaphors, 28 Slang, 11 Polysemies, 2 Homophones, 2 Metonymies, and 2 Sound Changes. In addition, there are 3 homonyms found. The study is expected to be useful for future studies related to humor and pragmatics.

**Keywords** : erotic jokes; sexual humor; pragmatics, Instagram; English linguistics

## INTRODUCTION

Human is Homo Ludens (Huizinga, 1949). It means humans like to play; including playing with words. Many kinds of play on words have been done such as puns, proverbs, touches of sarcasm, and many more. Words used in humor are infinite. Even death can be used as humor. It is because humor can make people laugh not merely caused of the dictions, but the situational choices. Different people can even perceive humor differently because of different closeness to the speaker, or even the difference of experience (Mauersberger et al., 2022). A person who has ever had a deceased family may not be able to laugh at humor related to a dead family. Some well-known humor is erotic/ sexual humor.

Sexual relationships or acts are essential in the development of humor. Sexual relationships are something very sensitive and it is prone to cause humor (Lynch, 2002). In addition, things related to sexual acts and genitals are considered taboo. This makes people use humor to free themselves from this feeling because erotic jokes can make it acceptable (Ross, 1998). With the development of technology, people are more prone to understand sexual acts and genitals even as kids and they can even see it directly on their own phones. Many sex acts can be found easily in the media (Gunasekera et al., 2005). The bombardment of knowledge about sex has made people want to know more and create more words related to sexual acts that in the end become material for humor.

This research is trying to find how erotic jokes are used in English. Linguistic theory is used to analyze the erotic jokes in the data. However, the main focus of the analysis is in semantic and



pragmatic theories. In addition, this research is a continuation of a research done by Wijana (2022) in his research on Javanese erotic riddles.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Humor can be sensed when there is an element of surprise. One element of surprise that can be used is the use of inappropriate words. What will people feel when someone talks about taboo words in serious events? People might feel differently. Different effects can still mean humor if it is purposed to humor and if there are people enjoying the humor. This is why, delivering jokes cannot be done recklessly. People need to have the competence of humor to deliver and understand humor (Attardo, 1994). There are many ways to deliver jokes, one very obvious way is by playing with words. There were some previous studies related to humor. The first is a study about cultural stereotypes in ethnic humor (Yudhi Septa Priana et al., 2019); humor in cartoon (Wijana, 2023); and riddles (Wijana, 2022).

Grice in (Raskin, 1985) explains that humor can be made when it follows the cooperative principle of non-bona-fide communication. Telling jokes must follow these cooperative principles, or else the joke will fail. In terms of cooperative principles, the four maxims in the mode of joke-telling should be made as follows:

- a. Maxim of Quantity must be followed by giving as much information as needed for the joke to be understood.
- b. Maxim of Quality must be followed by using suitable diction in delivering the joke.
- c. Maxim of Relation must be followed by saying relevant stories/ words known by the hearer.
- d. Maxim of Manner must be followed by telling the joke efficiently and effectively.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research is done qualitatively by describing the erotic jokes found in the data source. The data source is an Instagram account (@tarablairball). In her account, she made videos about dirty jokes for her husband. This account was chosen because it contained a compilation of erotic jokes between couples, which is unique and rare to be found. Without this account, similar research will need to find the erotic jokes scattered in tens of accounts.

In addition, the data taken are 80 of their first erotic jokes. The data taken were only 80 to limit the data. The sample data are collected by applying convenience sampling which is by taking the first 80 posts of the IG account used as data source (Creswell, 2014). It was done because some posts after the 80 samples are sometimes thematic which may be similar in many aspects. and it is expected to be sufficient for this research

The data were compiled in Excel and categorized. Some or all of the examples were taken as examples for the discussion section. They were analyzed by applying the help of Search Engines to find definitions, especially Slang dictionary (Urban Dictionary, 2024) as well as basic English Dictionary (Cambridge Online Dictionary, 2024). The dictionaries were used to find difficult words and compare the two similar words as well as to see the pronunciation if the words used as jokes are similar in sounds. The dictionaries were mostly used to find the homonymy, homophones, and metaphors of the words used.

In this research, the analysis is done by comparing the writing done by Wijana (2022). In his research, there were some categories mentioned such as jokes done by applying Metaphor, Homonymy, Sound Change, Word and Syllable permutation, and Metonymy. The current research would like to find if the analysis will have similar or different results using different data within different languages.

## RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis of 80 erotic jokes found in the data source. There are some categories of jokes from the perspective of linguistics. It is found that there are 29 metaphors, 28 Slang, 11 Polysemies, 2 Homophones, 2 Metonymies, and 2 Sound Changes. In addition, there are 3 homonyms found overlapping with the other categories. There are a total of 75 jokes that can be categorized out of 80 data. The 5 data were unable to be linguistically categorized. The first category can be seen from the discussion below:

### Metaphor

Erotic jokes can be made by relating one thing to another thing. It is done because non-sexual things that are related can give the element of surprise because the continuation of the words is related to sexual acts/ genitals. The data can be seen in the table below.

This chapter presents the researcher's findings from the novel, aiming to answer the research questions using Marxist theory, which focuses on social status and the division between upper and lower classes. "The bourgeoisie have economically oppressed the proletariat through control of production and policies." (Engels, 2018).

**Table 1.** Erotic jokes in metaphor

|   |  |           |  |
|---|--|-----------|--|
| 1 | have you washed your face? Cause I need a clean place to sit.                                | Jan 2, 24 | This joke is considered to be using metaphor in the deliverance because of the word 'sit'. It is a trend recently in western countries that lovers are making pranks to tell their significant other to clean their face because it needs to be clean to be sit on. This joke relates sexual activities to sitting on a chair. |
| 2 | wanna play with the box your daughter came?  | Jan 3, 24 | This joke uses metaphor because the speaker uses the word 'box your daughter came' which means a place where a daughter is brought out to the world for the first time, ie., vagina.   |
| 3 | let's pretend I'm a shark and you've got some swimmers I need to swallow                     | Jan 3, 24 | The joke talks about pretending to become a shark that eats swimmers. However, this joke is erotic because swimmers mean sperm because it swims to get to the egg.   |
| 4 | if this leg is christmas and this leg is thanksgiving, can I visit you between the holidays? | Jan 3, 24 | This joke is erotic because both legs are related to holidays and visiting 'between' the holidays means visiting between the two legs which is the groin which is the location of the genitals.  |
| 5 | I'm like a pinky toe. I'm cute and small and you'll be banging me on the coffee table later. | Jan 3, 24 | This joke is comparing a human and a pinky toe. It is because a pinky toe is mostly banged to a table when people walk and it is similarized to 'banging someone on the coffee table' when 'bang someone' can also mean 'to have sex' with someone.  |

|    |  |            |   |
|----|--|------------|---|
| 6  | let's play house. I'll be the door and you can slam me all you want.   | Jan 4, 24  | The joke is similar to the previous one which uses the word 'slam' which is also similar to the word 'bang' or 'fuck'.  |
| 7  | what's the difference between me and the fridge? I don't know. The fridge doesn't moan when you pull your meat out | Jan 4, 24  | This joke similarizes the speaker and a fridge which is having meat inside her. However, the fridge does not moan when the meat is pulled out.  |
| 8  | are you a rare steak? Because if you were bleeding, I would still eat you.   | Jan 5, 24  | The joke is comparing a human and a rare steak. It is because rare steak are mostly still raw and it still has blood in it. It is similar to a woman on her period.   |
| 9  | what has 52 teeth and holds back a monster? What? Your zipper.   | Jan 8, 24  | This joke is similarize a penis to a monster. However, the monster is held by a zipper which is riddled humorously.   |
| 10 | are you a trucker? Because I need a big load delivered.  | Jan 8, 24  | This joke relates a human and a truck. A truck is known as having a load that needs to be carried to other places. It is similarized with a human that has a 'load' in the form of 'sperm'.   |
| 11 | are you an interior decorator? Because I want you to paint my inside white.  | Jan 10, 24 | Asking about an interior decorator to paint someone's inside white refers to ejaculating inside a woman's body.   |
| 12 | I'm your appendix. I didn't do anything important. I just want to burst inside of you.                             | Jan 10, 24 | The appendix is known to be one of the most worthless parts of the body that does not have an important function. However, many people are suffering appendicitis in the form of a 'bursting' appendix. This is similarized to someone whose goal in life is only to ejaculate inside people. |
| 13 | are you a post-it? Because you make my back sticky.  | Jan 10, 24 | This joke refers to a sex acts where the person is ejaculating on the back of the woman. This is why the back becomes sticky.   |
| 14 | British tanks may be equipped to make tea, but you're a tank equipped to make ice cream.                           | Jan 11, 24 | This joke compares a British tank and 'you tank'. It is said that 'you' can make ice cream which refers to the sperm.   |
| 15 | are you acne? Because I want you to come on my face whenever I'm stressed.   | Jan 11, 24 | This joke is relating acne with someone. It is because acne and people have similarities that are to come/ cum/ ejaculate. And she wants them to come to relieve her stress.  |
| 16 | Are you rubik's cube? Because the more I play  | Jan 11, 24 | The joke is comparing someone with a rubik cube that is difficult to be solved. However, instead of using the word 'difficult' or   |

|    |   |            |   |
|----|---|------------|---|
|    | with you, the harder you get.   |            | 'delicate', the speaker uses the word 'hard' which has more than one meaning.   |
| 17 | your legs are like an Oreo cookie. I wanna split them and you eat all the good stuff in the middle. | Jan 12, 24 | The joke is relating someone's legs with Oreos. It is known that between the cookies, Oreos have the cream in the middle.   |
| 18 | Are you having me to go? Are you going to eat me here?  | Jan 13, 24 | This joke is talking about a food that is brought home or eaten on the spot. The wife is talking about eating her 'vagina' on the spot or later.  |
| 19 | Are you Moses? Because you're about to part my Red Sea.   | Jan 13, 24 | This is a question asking if the husband is Moses because he will divide the Red Sea which means her vagina that is on a menstrual cycle.   |
| 20 | I'm not a microwave, but you wanna put it in for two minutes?                                       | Jan 13, 24 | This joke compares sexual acts with a microwave. This refers to sexual acts called 'quickies' that are usually done by married couples with kids who are too busy to have sex for a long time. So, they need to do a 'quickie' because they have many things to do. |
| 21 | Pretend I'm school bus and fill me with children  | Jan 13, 24 | This joke compares the wife to a school bus that is filled with children, i.e. the sperm.   |

### Sexual Expression/ Slang

Many erotic jokes are created by using slang words. Because sexual acts are considered taboo, there are many people who create many expressions related to sexual acts. It can be in terms of sex position, genitals, and many others.

**Table 2.** Erotic jokes in slang

|   |   |            |   |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | you wanna play Barbie? You can be Ken and I'll be the box you come in.                        | Dec 31, 23 | This joke is utilizing the homonymy of the word come which is pronounced /kʌm/ which is also known as 'cum'. This word is slang for 'ejaculation'.  |
| 2 | I'm like Domino's pizza, if you don't come in the first 30 minutes, then the next one is free | Dec 31, 23 | This is a similar joke utilizing the word 'come/ cum'   |
| 3 | I am a washing machine. You wanna put your dirty load in me?                                  | Dec 31, 23 | This joke uses sexual expression in the phrase 'dirty load' which is another word for a penis.  |
| 4 | If I am a pain in your ass, then we can just add more lube                                    | Dec 31, 23 | The joke uses the word 'the pain in your ass' which is a common expression for something/ someone that is irritating. However, instead of expression, the speaker takes it seriously and says to add more lube to relieve the pain. |
| 5 | can you kiss me passionately on the lips and  | Dec 31, 23 | This joke can give an element of surprise because the speaker uses the word kiss on the 'lips' which is something usual for married people, but adding 'then goes up to my belly button' instead of going down. It                  |

|    |   |            |   |
|----|---|------------|---|
|    | then move up to my belly button?  |            | means that she refers to the 'other lips under the belly button' which refers to the vagina.  |
| 6  | can you be my plumber and stank my pipes?   | Jan 2, 24  | This joke uses the word 'stank my pipes' which means make the pipe 'dirty'. Pipe is a slang for 'penis'.  |
| 7  | are you going somewhere? To make sure you come on time, I shaved you a road map           | Jan 2, 24  | This joke is also utilizing the word come. However, this word is not humorous without the additional word 'shaved' because it is related to hair. Hair and come can only be connected if they are related to genitalia.   |
| 8  | what time do you get off? Uh five. Can I watch?   | Jan 3, 24  | The joke can be understood by understanding the phrasal verb 'get off'. In the English Dictionary, it means 'to depart'. However, it is also a slang word for 'ejaculation' or 'orgasm'.  |
| 9  | I'm no weather woman but do you think I could expect a few inches tonight?                | Jan 3, 24  | This joke makes use of the word 'inches'. Weather women expecting inches would mean 'the thickness of snow'. However, erotic jokes for inches would mean 'the length of a penis'.   |
| 10 | could you be a gentleman and push my stool in?  | Jan 3, 24  | This can only be understood if the person knows the slang word for stool. In English, a stool is a small chair. A gentleman should help a lady to push a stool. However, the stool is also a slang word for 'feces'. Erotic jokes of 'pushing the stool in' means 'to have anal sex'. |
| 11 | can I kiss your brown eye? I have two right here. Which one?                              | Jan 4, 24  | This joke can only be dirty and erotic if one knows that 'brown eye' has another meaning. It means 'the butthole'. Moreover, if it is in the singular form and the person being talked to does not have brown eyes.   |
| 12 | you look like a hard worker. Thank you. Got an opening you can fill.                      | Jan 5, 24  | This joke is using the word 'opening' of a job as a joke. The 'opening' usually means a vacant position that can be filled by new worker. However, it can also mean 'holes' as slang.   |
| 13 | Let's play doctor. I'll be the doctor and you be the patient with a bone need to examine. | Jan 21, 24 | This joke may seem harmless. However, understanding sexual expression can make it erotic. It can be seen in the word 'bone'. There is a slang word for 'erection' called 'boner'.   |
| 14 | if you were a cop and I was an informant, would you pump me for information?              | Jan 21, 25 | This joke can only be humorous if one understands that the word 'pump' is also slang for the word 'fuck' or 'have sex'.   |
| 15 | wanna play mechanic? I'll start by giving you a rim job.                                  | Jan 21, 26 | This joke uses an expression called 'rim job'. A mechanic would call it a job to clean/ to repair the edge of a car or electronics. However, the slang dictionary says that it can also mean as a sexual act where the 'butthole is licked'.  |

### Polysemy

Polysemous words are those words having multiple uses but still the same concept and same pronunciation as well as spelling. The meaning can be literal as well as metaphorical. Erotic jokes mostly use metaphorical polysemous meanings. Erotic jokes using polysemies can be seen in the table below.

**Table 3.** Erotic jokes in polysemy

|   |   |            |   |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | "I am a freelance proctologist. How long has it been since your last exam?"                       | Dec 30, 23 | The polysemy can be found in the word exam. Many students understand examinations. In the hospital, a doctor also examines the patients to check the illness. Proctologists are specialists that are known to be checking and curing illnesses related to anus or rectum. They usually do it by inserting their fingers to the anus to check if there is colon cancer/ prostate cancer. The word exam here is used to refer to a rectal exam. |
| 2 | do you believe in love at first choke?  | Dec 31, 23 | Choke here refers to the 'choke' where people are having sex and the man grabs the woman in the neck and makes her choke. It can also mean 'choke' as in the person where they are 'choking' when they are doing oral sex by swallowing a penis.  |
| 3 | I hope you have a sewing machine because I'm gonna tear that ass up                               | Dec 31, 23 | The joke here is in the use of the word 'tear'. People can tear a paper. However, the word is not to tear a paper, but by tearing an ass.   |
| 4 | nice butt. What time does it open?  | Jan 1, 24  | Open is usually used to say the time a restaurant opens. However, it is used to say the time when the 'butt' is available.  |
| 5 | my voice isn't deep, but my throat is.  | Jan 2, 24  | It is known that deep is used to show the depth of a river or the sea. However, the speaker here uses it to show the 'throat' is deep. Which means she can swallow even a longer penis.   |
| 6 | you look like a hard worker. Thank you. Got an opening you can fill.                              | Jan 5, 24  | This joke is also using the word 'open' differently from the common word. It is because here, the word 'open' means 'vacant' hole as in job vacancy.  |
| 7 | do you have any Hungarian in you? No. want some?  | Jan 5, 24  | This joke uses the word 'Hungarian'. Usually, it is used to show the kinship and the nationality as well as the DNA of someone. However, the speaker is talking about the literal body (penis/ DNA (sperm) of a hungarian) inserted into other people.  |
| 8 | Is your nickname cigarette? Because I wanna put you in my mouth and suck on you until you're done | Jan 7, 24  | The word 'done' here is used to say that the man is 'finished ejaculating'.   |
| 9 | You don't need a sled when you can ride me instead.   | Jan, 17 24 | Here, the speaker uses the word ride not to express her riding a bicycle, car, or sled. However, she is referring to riding a penis.  |

### Homophones

Homophones refer to words that are similar in pronunciation, but different in meaning and spelling. Some examples of homophones can be found in the words 'leave' and 'live'. They both share the same pronunciation /li:v/. However, they are completely different words. Examples of erotic jokes using homophones can be found in the table below.

**Table 4.** Erotic jokes in homophones

|   |   |            |  |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Honey, I wanna be an astronaut so I can travel to Uranus tonights | Dec 30, 23 | This joke uses the word 'Uranus' as in a planet and 'your anus' that have the same exact pronunciation.    |
| 2 | is your name winter? Because you're gonna be coming soon.         | Dec 30, 23 | This joke uses the word 'coming' as in arriving and compares it to the word 'cumming' as in 'ejaculation'. |
| 3 | there will only be seven planets after I destroy Uranus.          | Jan 7, 24  | This joke is also using the word 'Uranus' and 'your anus' as joking material.                              |

### Metonymy

Metonymy refers to the expression used by only using a smaller part of the things mentioned. It can be seen from the sentence "Now he is a respectable salt and pepper adult". Salt and pepper here mean his hair is turning white and now he has black and white hair. The hair is mentioned instead of the whole body.

**Table 5.** Erotic jokes in metonymy

|   |  |            |   |
|---|--|------------|---|
| 1 | pretend I'm a termite and give me a mouthful of wood                               | Dec 31, 23 | This joke uses the word 'wood' in it. It refers to the full phrase 'morning wood'. It is a condition when a man is having a sudden erection in the morning. |
| 2 | Let's play Lion Tamer. I'll get on all fours and you'll put your head in my mouth. | Jan, 18 24 | The joke uses the word 'head' in it. It refers to the full phrase 'dickhead' which is the tip of the penis.   |

### Sound Change

In delivering erotic jokes, some people also play with words by changing some sounds in a word/sentence. Some examples can be seen in the table below.

**Table 5.** Erotic jokes in sound change

|   |  |            |   |
|---|--|------------|---|
| 1 | You want to be a Keebler elf and pack my fudge?                                  | Jan 11, 24 | This joke refers to an English sweets product with a brand named Keebler Elf. This brand produces one kind of sweets/candy in the form of a 'fudge'. A fudge is one kind of thick and soft candy. Instead of saying 'fuck', the speaker distorts the word and says 'fudge' instead. |
| 2 | If I were the word country, I would let you put your mouth on my first syllable. | Jan, 19 24 | This joke is talking about the first syllable in the word 'country'. It should be the word 'count', but erotic jokes change the sound into 'cunt'.  |

### Homonymy

Homonymy refers to the same words in terms of spelling and pronunciation but with completely different meanings. It can be seen from the word 'bat' that can mean 'a flying mammal' or 'a baseball stick'. Most of the homonymies found in the data are homonymous words that can only

be found in the slang dictionary. Homonymous words can be found overlapping with the previous analysis. They can be found in the word bang, slam, and hard.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there are 29 metaphors, 28 Slang, 11 Polysemies, 2 Homophones, 2 Metonymies, and 2 Sound Changes. In addition, there are 3 homonyms found. The categories are found in 80 erotic jokes on an Instagram account by @tarablairball. In addition, after comparing this analysis to the previous study by Wijana (2022), this current research cannot find one example of word permutation out of the 80 first erotic jokes of @tarablairball 's account. It may exist somewhere. However, the data limitation cannot show one result. This might be caused by the language structure that is different in both language. However, there is no limit in humor and such category may still be created based on the creativity of the creator.

There are still many data not taken from the data source. The future studies can use more data from the Instagram account to conduct similar research and to see if they can find more complete categories by using different methods. In conclusion, this research is only very simple research regarding humor. However, this investigation can already sum up that a convenient sampling can already conclude the importance of linguistic to create erotic humor.

## STATEMENT OF COMPETING INTEREST

The author(s) declare that there is no conflict of interest related to the conduct of this research. This includes the planning and execution of the study, the analysis and interpretation of the data, the writing of the manuscript, and the decision to submit the article for publication. No financial, personal, or professional relationships have influenced or could be perceived to have influenced the outcomes of this work. The authors affirm that the research was carried out independently and objectively, without any external influence or bias.

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