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# *Adab Al-Rafidayn Journal*

**A refereed journal concerned with the publishing of scientific researches  
in the field of arts and humanities both in Arabic and English**

**Vol. Ninety-Two / year Fifty- Three /Shabban - 1444 AH / March 2023 AD**

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**Editor-in-chief**

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# *A Pragmatic Study of Irony in Iraqi Arabic*

Ali Hussein Baba\*  
Ebaa Mudhafer Alrasam\*\*

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## **Abstract**

The current study explores a significant communication mean namely irony. Irony is one of the everyday communication means which is used by speakers to convey various purposes more than what is stated literary. Irony is a notion which includes a wide range of implications and functions that could be positive or negative relying on the intention of the writer or the speaker. Very few studies have been done on studying the irony in Iraqi Arabic from a pragmatic point of view.

This study investigates irony from a pragmatic perspective in one of the Iraqi TV shows. The present study attempts to detect, analyze and discuss 133 verbal ironic situations found in six randomly selected episodes from a TV show. It uses an eclectic model, which consists of Grice's (1975) model and Gibbs's (2000) model. Grice (1975) presents cooperative principles and four maxims for effective communication. These maxims are: the maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. The current research aims to identify the most flouted Grice's maxim during uttering ironic speeches, the pragmatic strategies used to create irony, and the reasons behind using irony. The study hypothesized that the quality is the most flouted maxim during performing irony and ironists tend to use certain pragmatic strategies more than others.

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\* M.A student /Dept. of English Language/ College of Art / University of Mosul

\*\* Prof. Asst. /Dept. of English Language/ College of Art / University of Mosul



The results show that most ironic situations in Iraqi Arabic are produced by flouting the maxim of quality, whereas sarcasm is noticed to be the most preferred pragmatic strategy in the production of irony (see figure 1). In addition, mocking is used more by the presenter as a function of irony when the contestants do not know the answers or provide incorrect answers. Whereas humor is used by the presenter and other contestants to add a sense of humor to their utterances.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Irony, cooperative principle

## **1. Introduction**

A number of characterizations of irony have been noted in recent years. Given the variety of literary, stylistic, psychological, and pragmatic viewpoints, the essential focus of such studies has remained on verbal irony. Abrams tends to view irony from a literary viewpoint in which he claims that "irony is the sense of dissembling or hiding what is actually the case in order not to deceive, but to achieve special rhetorical or artistic effects." (Abrams, 1999:134). Pragmatically, Leech (1983: 142) describes irony more specifically as a pragmatic term that makes speakers "to be impolite while appearing to be polite" by violating one or more of the maxims of the cooperative principle. Webster (1981), in his dictionary, defines irony as using words to convey something other than the literal meaning and especially the opposite of the direct meaning of words. Grice considers verbal irony as a rhetorical figure with a variety of meanings than it explicitly represents and notes that this meaning "must be some obviously related proposition; the most obviously related proposition is the contradictory of the speaker purports to be putting forward" (Grice, 1989: 22).

## **2. Statement of the Problem**

Irony is a concept which has been studied before in English and even in Arabic. But little attention has been paid to studying irony from a pragmatic point of view in Iraqi Arabic game TV shows. This study tries to fill the gap found in the literature related to investigating irony pragmatically in Iraqi Arabic in the field of entertainment TV Shows. It investigates irony in one of Iraqi TV shows called *My Family wins*.

## **3. Aims of the Study**

1-Exploring the ways by which the ironists flouts the maxims, and identifying the most flouted maxims.

2- Examining the pragmatic strategies or forms used to create ironic situations in *My Family Wins*.

3- Identifying the reasons behind uttering ironic utterances.

#### **4. Research Questions**

1- How do ironists flout Gracie's maxims in the production of ironic speech? and which is the most maxim flouted?.

2. What are the most common pragmatic strategies or irony forms used to create irony?

3- What is the real intention of speakers during uttering the ironic utterances?

#### **6. Pragmatics and irony**

Pragmatics is defined by Lyons (1977:171) as "the study of actual utterance, the study of use rather than meaning; the study of that part of meaning which is not purely truth-conditional; the study of performance rather than competence". Although several neglected cases related to the meanings and use of language have been dealt with through its methodology, several other complex phenomena are required to be given appropriate attention. One of such a type of phenomena is "Irony".

The standard dealing with irony pragmatically goes back to Grice (1975). He states that people understand irony by recognizing that utterances violate a conversational maxim and consequently deriving an interpretation that is compatible with the assumption of cooperative principle in conversation. In other words, we observe the Cooperative principle and its maxims in ordinary conversation, and the intended messages pass from speakers to hearers directly. When one or more of the maxims are violated or flouted, a conversational implicature is created, unless speakers are not telling the truth or otherwise refusing to cooperate (Grice, 1975).

#### **7. Grice's Theory and irony**

Grice's theory starts with the assumption that a conversation is a cooperative operation. The cooperative principle was designed to mean this: "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the

stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged" (Grice 1975: 41). Grice proposes four maxims of cooperative principles: the maxim of Quality, Quantity, Manner and the Relation.

### **7.1 Irony and the Maxim of Quality**

Grice (1975: 46) states that communicators should try to make their contributions true, "Do not say what you believe to be false" and "Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence". Grice claims that the comprehension of verbal irony derives from a realisation that the speaker violates the maxim of Quality. This realisation triggers an implicature that consequently makes the listener derive interpretations compatible with the Cooperative Principle.

### **7.2 Irony and the Maxim of Quantity**

It deals with the quantity of conversation and how the communicator should provide the receiver with a satisfactory amount of needed information: "Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange)" and "Do not make your contribution more informative than is required. (Grice 1975:45).

The maxim of quantity is violated by providing less information than it is required in the case of criticism and by providing extra information in the case of admission or compliment. In issues of ironic understatement, for example, speakers flout the maxim of quantity by providing only part of their judgement (Vance, 2013).

### **7.3 Irony and the Maxim of Relation**

Grice (1975: 53) points out that the maxim of relation is fulfilled by "making your contribution relevant." In other words, speakers must give information which is relevant to the immediate conversation. Alba Juez (1995:27) states that the relevance maxims can be violated in cases like ironical utterances.

### **7.4 Irony and the Maxim of Manner**

It relates to what is said and how it is most likely to be said. It includes the following sub maxims:

1. "Avoid obscurity of expression".
2. "Avoid ambiguity".
3. "Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity)".
4. "Be orderly" (Grice, 1975:46).

In order not to break the maxim of manner, speakers need to consider their speech to be empty of ambiguity and obscurity. Many forms of verbal irony include a flouting of the maxim of manner. All forms of ironic understatement are certainly ambiguous since they do not determine the speakers' exact judgement. Whereas, all forms of ironic overstatement flout the maxim of manner since the more provided information will lead to exaggerate the speakers' real intentions (Vance, 2013:25).

Grice (1975) limits the irony only to the quality maxim. However, many other linguists, like Alba-Juez (1995); Attardo (2000); Brown and Levinson (1987); Kaufer (1981) and others, do not agree with Grice's limitation of irony to quality maxim only. Therefore, they states that depending on an application to the maxim of quality lonely to detect ironic situations is applicable for recognizing only very restricted and certain forms of verbal irony. Instead, they try to modify Grice's account of irony and proof that all Grice's maxims can be flouted in producing ironic statements. In this study, the researcher deals with irony as flouting of all four maxims of Grice.

Chen and Houlette (1990:30) argue that there are three questions that should be raised when we try to study irony:

1. Why do the speakers say what they do not mean?

2. How can the hearers know that the speakers do not mean what they say?

And 3. How can the hearers arrive at what the speakers really mean?

Booth (1975, 10-12) proposes a procedure to answer the second and the third questions in order to account for irony in certain steps:

1. "To reject the literal meaning on account of some incongruity in the text".

2. "To try out alternative interpretations or explanations" .

3. "To make a decision about the author's knowledge or belief".

4. "To choose a new meaning or cluster of meanings".

This account of irony fails to explain how the listeners identify and reject the explicit meaning of the utterances. However, the Cooperative Principle can answer this question (Chen and Houlette, 1990). As illustrated in the example bellow :

A. *"I heard Fred tell on you to your boss yesterday afternoon".*

B. *"knew that, He is my good friend".*

Given that both A and B assume the other party is observing the Cooperative Principle. B knows that to tell on a friend is not good behavior, so that A recognizes a violation of maxim of quality because B's utterance cannot be correct in that '*Fred*' told on him. Though, A rejects the explicit meaning of B's utterance and looks for another implicit meaning that fits the context. When a maxim is flouted, listeners are faced with a contradiction. On the one hand, they note that there are no reasons behind the speaker's not cooperating. On the other hand, the speaker's utterance flouts a maxim; that is, the speaker looks like as he is trying not to cooperate. To deal with this discrepancy, there is only one choice for the listeners: to derive from the speaker's utterance what the speaker actually intends to convey.

## **8. Kinds of Irony**

Different scholars have classified the kinds or forms of irony differently. However, in this research we will tackle briefly the most famous kinds of irony.

### **8.1 Situational Irony**

Cuddon (1998: 430) notes that situational irony arises when, for example, a man laughs disgustingly at another's misfortune when he is experiencing the same misfortune. There may be some characteristics to this type of irony. For example, Shelley (2001: 775) claims that situational irony includes unexpectedness arising from predicted normality, "mocking quality" in that the real events are often contrasted with the expectations of the audiences.

### **8.2 Dramatic Irony**

Dramatic irony is defined by Perrine (1974: 216) as the contrast between what a person says and what the reader knows to be real. That is, the importance of this kind of irony lies in the statement it implicates on the speakers or their expectations. Cuddon (1998: 431) argues that there are 3 stages of dramatic irony: preparation, creating dramatic conflict in what a character depends on or appears to depend on; suspension, the opposite of what is known by the audience to be true; and resolution, the receiver knows something that one or more of the characters are unaware of.

### **8.3 Socratic irony**

Cicora (1998:19) argues that Socratic irony is an identical type of classical irony. It arises when a person behaves as if he does not do something.

#### **8.4 Verbal irony**

Searle views verbal irony as an indirect form of conversation that is inappropriate to the current conversation and context that "the hearer is compelled to reinterpret it in such a way as to render it appropriate, and the most natural way to interpret it is as meaning the opposite of its literal form" (Searle, 1979: 113).

The traditional interpretation of verbal irony has passed nearly unchanged into linguistic studies. Grice and Searle developed the traditional interpretations by describing what makes the explicit utterance to be reinterpreted, but they strictly adopted to the traditional interpretation by claiming that verbal irony is processed by negation. Grice considers verbal irony as a rhetorical figure that has a various meaning than it explicitly states or conveys and claims that this meaning "must be some obviously related proposition; the most obviously related proposition is the contradictory of the one (s)he [the speaker] purports to be putting forward" (Grice ,1989: 22). Niazi (2004: 90) also supports Grice's view, thus, he defines the verbal irony as "a way of implying the opposite or different meaning from what is literary said", and adds that "the intention behind verbal irony is to attack". Therefore, this work tries to examine the pragmatics strategies implied by the Iraqi ironists in *My family wins* and the real intention behind using irony.

Hutcheon (1995:12) divides the participants, who can be present in producing ironic utterances, into three categories:

1. The ironist: is the person who "intends to set up an ironic relation between the said and the unsaid". In other words, the one who produces the irony.
2. The interpreters: their task is to interpret the real intended or the implied meaning of the ironic utterances, a meaning "that is hidden, but deemed accessible, behind the stated one". Sometimes, the interpreters are also the victims or the intended addressees of "the ironist's utterance".
3. The victim or the target: the one who is "the irony's victim" or the intended addressee of the irony.

Due to the fact that verbal irony, unlike other types of irony, is concerned with the communicative intent of speakers, it is going to be chosen a pragmatic term throughout the current study.

## **9. Functions of irony**

Verbal irony has been reported to be used for various reasons and functions. Some functions are psychological and others are social.

The social functions are concerned with making fun, humor, mocking, politeness, evaluation, blaming, aggression, solidarity, ridicule, ambiguity, appearing clever, attachment to the members in the society and others (Kreuz *et al.*, 1991; Littmann & Mey, 1991; Clift, 1999; Anolli *et al.*, 2002; Kotthoff, 2003).

Whereas, the psychological functions include the communicative functions of irony as being “a relational ambiguity”, “a border of reserve” and “a sign of respect for conventions” (Anolli *et al.*, 2001: 148-150).

Three functions of ironic criticism have been introduced by Dews *et al.* (1995: 364-365): "Ironic Criticism about Performances: Irony as Face Saving" (when speakers make a statement about someone's performance); "Ironic Criticism about Offensive Behavior: Irony as Face Saving" (when speakers make a statement about someone's offensive behavior, and "Ironic Criticism about the Situation: Irony as Humor" (when speakers make a statement about unpleasant situations). Dews *et al.* (1995:348) state that besides the criticizing functions, irony has also social functions and mentions four of these functions: Humor, Emotional Control, Aggression, and Status Elevation.

After reading different studies on the various purposes behind using irony, seven functions of irony are found to be the most common co-occurred in the studies of irony. These involve: mocking, humor, emotional control, status elevation, praise to blame, blame to praise, aggressive.

## **10. Data Collection**

Data in this study have been obtained from an Iraqi TV show namely ‘My family wins’. The study includes spontaneous spoken data taken from different participants. The data are taken from ironic situations collected from 6 episodes which are selected randomly. The length of each episode is arranged from 45 to 52 minutes. The ironic utterances are related either to the survey questions presented to the contestants, or communications among contestants or between the

presenter and other contestants. These questions include different subjects related to everyday life and general knowledge. The participants in each episode are one presenter and eight contestants divided into two teams each team consists of four contestants. The participants are using the Iraqi Arabic. All ironic situations take place at a studio.

### **11. Model of Analysis**

The study adopts an eclectic model which consists of different models. The first model is Grice's cooperative theory and his maxims. Grice's cooperative principles consist of four maxims: Quality, Quantity, Manner and Relation. Each one of these maxims can be flouted in the production of irony. In analyzing the data, each ironic situation should include one or more than one flouted maxim that corresponds with the Gibbs' (2000:13) indication of irony in which he claims that each ironic form should minimally reflect "the idea of a speaker providing some contrast between expectation and reality". Therefore, not all cases of flouting the maxims indicate irony but only those situations that reveal some contradiction between expectation and reality.

The second model is by Gibbs (2000), his model is used to identify the pragmatic strategies or the forms of verbal irony that are used to create ironic utterances. Gibbs (2000:12-13) suggests that there are five pragmatic strategies of verbal irony, as follows:

1. Jocularly: when a speaker teases another "in humorous ways".
2. Sarcasm: when a speaker speaks in a positive way in to express a negative meaning.
3. Rhetorical questions: when a speaker asks a question "that implied either a humorous or critical assertion".
4. Hyperbole: when a speakers expresses his intended meaning by "exaggerating the reality of the situation".
5. Understatement: when a speaker conveys his ironic statements "by stating far less than was obviously the case".

### **12. Procedures of Data Analysis**

After randomly selecting the six episodes, a brief description of the data is introduced at the beginning of each situation. The collected data are



written orthographically using the source language (Iraqi Arabic) then translated into English. The analysis starts with the pragmatic analysis to detect and analyze the ironic utterance. The pragmatic strategies that are used to produce irony are identified. These strategies include: Jocularly, Sarcasm, Rhetorical questions, Hyperbole, and Understatement. In addition to identifying the functions of irony. The following are some examples of the analysis of the ironic situations in this study.

### **Situation (1)**

The presenter and the contestant are standing together and waiting to know how many points the contestant will obtain from the already given answer.

a- المقدم: اشونه وضعك هسه؟

b- المتسابق: الحمد لله

a- المقدم: بلة خلي نشوف اشونه كلبك ... يا يابا 115

b- المتسابق: الحمد لله على كل حال

a- المقدم: لا 201 ديك 201

a- The presenter: *How are you now?*

b- The contestant: *Thank God*

a- The presenter: *Let's check your heartbeat ... Oh my God! It is 115 beats per minute*

b- The contestant: *Thank God*

a- The presenter: *No it is beating 201 times per minute, 201.*

### **The analysis of the situation (1):**

a- The presenter uses irony in the form of hyperbole as a pragmatic strategy to issue irony since he exaggerates the reality of the contestant's heartbeat. The contestant is stressed because he is waiting to know whether his answer is correct or incorrect. The stress results in making his heart beats quickly. The irony is used to mock the contestant because he is stressed. The ironist's, the presenter, invisible meaning is that he mentions the contestant's heartbeat as more than the usual, which is 72 beats per minute, to mock him and indicate that he is very stressed.

The presenter flouts the maxim of quality because his speech lacks adequate evidence. The presenter says that the contestant's heart is beating 115 times per minute, then immediately he says that it is not 115 beats per minute but it is beating 201 times per minute. His speech lacks

adequate evidence because he says the number of the contestant's heartbeat only by putting his hand on the contestant's chest, and it is known that it is impossible to measure the heartbeat without using a tool used to measure it.

### **Situation (2)**

The sign (X) appears on board when the answer of a member of one team is incorrect after managing to answer many questions correctly. Then the presenter comments:

المقدم: ما موجودة ... د خسروا اشوية خسروا ذبحتوني غلب غلب غلب غلب غلب

The presenter: Enough winning, I become bored to death of your constantly winning

### **The analysis of the situation (2):**

a- The presenters says '*It is not found*' in order to mean that the contestant's answer is incorrect because it is one of the answers provided by the survey questions. The ironist, the presenter, uses jocularly which one of the forms of irony proposed by Gibbs (2000) to create an ironic speech. He uses irony to blame while in essence he praises members of the team, the targets of irony. He superficially blames them and intends to show as if he is happy for providing incorrect answer. But the reality is that he praises them.

The presenter flouts the maxim of quality when he says '*you slaughtered me*' because he is alive and the members of the team did not slaughter him. The presenter also flouts the maxim of manner because he is not brief in his speech when he repeats saying the word '*winning*' six times to indicate that they are always winning.

### **The analysis of the situation (3):**

It is the turn of a contestant whose name is Ehsan to answer the following question presented by the presenter. 'What does a woman do when her car is broken down in the street?'

a- المقدم : واستاذ احسان

b- المتسابق : اي

a- المقدم : شتقول

b- المتسابق: بعدها عاطلة السيارة؟

a- The presenter: *and Mr. Ehsan*

b- The contestant: *Yes*

a- The presenter: *What do you say (what is your answer)?*

b- The contestant: *is the car still broken?*

**The analysis of the situation (3):**

a- The following question: '*What does a woman do when her car is broken down in the street?*' is addressed to the contestant by the presenter. But the contestant does not answer this question since he does not know the answer and does not want to admit it. He intends to shift the current subject through performing irony by raising another unrelated question asking whether the car is still broken. The contestant flouts the maxim of relation because his speech is irrelevant to the presenter's previous question. The contestant is supposed to answer the presenter's question with a clear answer, not with a counter unrelated question. The contestant intentionally breaks the relation maxim to produce an ironic utterance in order to add a sense of humor to his speech. This deliberate violation of one of the cooperative maxims will lead the audiences to produce an implicature to realize the implicated ironic meaning of this utterance. The ironist in this situation uses irony in the form of rhetorical question because he does not need an answer to his question.

**Situation (4)**

The presenter asks a contestant a question in the face off round.

a- المقدم: كلي شنو احدى اغاني الفنان حسين نعمة ؟

b- المتسابق: ما اعرف

a- المقدم : شنو؟

b- المتسابق: ما اعرف

a- المقدم: شنو؟

b- المتسابق : ما حافظهن

a- المقدم: يا سلام ... يا سلام

a- The presenter: *tell me, what is one of the singer Hussein Neamah's songs?*

b- The contestant: *I do not know*

a- The presenter: *excuse me?*

b- The contestant: *I do not know*

a- The presenter: *What?*

b- The contestant: *I do not memorize them*

a- The presenter: *Great ... Great*

**The analysis of the situation (4):**

a- The irony is issued in the form of sarcasm for the sake of being more offensive as much as possible toward the contestant. The function of

using irony is to blame the contestant while he is praising him. The presenter literally praises the contestant by saying 'Great', but the reality is that he blames him for not knowing the answer.

The presenter flouts the maxim of quality because his speech is untruthful. There is a contrast between what is said and what is intended to mean. The presenter asks the contestant to mention one of the famous Iraqi singer Hussein neamah's songs. The presenter thinks that this question is easy because it is about a famous singer and the contestant should not find any difficulty to answer it. When the contestant says that he does not know even a single song of Hussein neamah, the presenter says two times surprisingly 'what' as he thinks that this is an easy question and the contestant will manage to answer. Then against the expectations, the presenter says 'Great' two times although the contestant does not know the answer. When a person manages to give a correct answer, it is expected that some words will be said to him like 'Great'. But here in this situation, the presenter against the expectations says 'Great' to the contestant when he does not manage to provide a correct answer. The speaker flouts the maxim of quality to imply the opposite of what he states literally.

#### Situation (5)

The contestant comments on the answer provided by the contestant when he asks him 'name an animal that bites' and the contestant replies 'Sheep' as an answer to the question.

a- المقدم : اذكر اسم حيوان يعض؟

b- المتسابق : الخروف

المقدم .يعني الخروف ابتلى صار قربان كل عيد يذبحوه هو يعض؟ شيعض؟ ... عضاك

- خروف

قد يوم من الايام؟

a- The presenter: name an animal that bites?

b- The contestant: Sheep

a- The presenter: *The sheep is afflicted and becomes a sacrifice that is slaughtered every Eid... it bites?! What does it bite?! ... Have you ever been bitten by a sheep?*

#### The analysis of the situation (5):

a- In his answer, the contestant says that sheep is one of the animals that bites. But depending on the general knowledge, it is known that sheep are not used to bite and this leads the presenter, who is the ironist in this situation, to use the pragmatic strategy of rhetorical question in order to ask whether the contestant has ever been bitten by a sheep. Nevertheless, there is no need to address such a question as he and also the contestant know that the answer is obviously No; it is obvious that the contestant has not been ever bitten by a sheep, because sheep is a pet so it is illogical to say that sheep bits. The speaker flouts the maxim of quantity as he produces a question which is not necessary for the purpose of the current exchange. The explicit utterance is a question addressed toward the contestant, whereas the presenter's real intention is that the contestant's answer is completely incorrect. The presenter uses irony in order to mock the contestant for his answer which is an unusual and incorrect for a very easy question.

### **Situation (6)**

One contestant (who is short stature) is going to compete with another contestant in the face-off round (the beginning round). In front of each contestant, there is a table that contains a buzzer on it and the contestant who manages to press the buzzer first has the priority to answer the question. Another contestant from the same team talks to the presenter.

المتسابق: /استاذ جواد اذا ما ينوشه كعده عالميز.

The contestant: *Mr. Jawad (the presenter), If he is unable to reach it (the buzzer), make him sit on the table.*

#### **The analysis of the situation (6):**

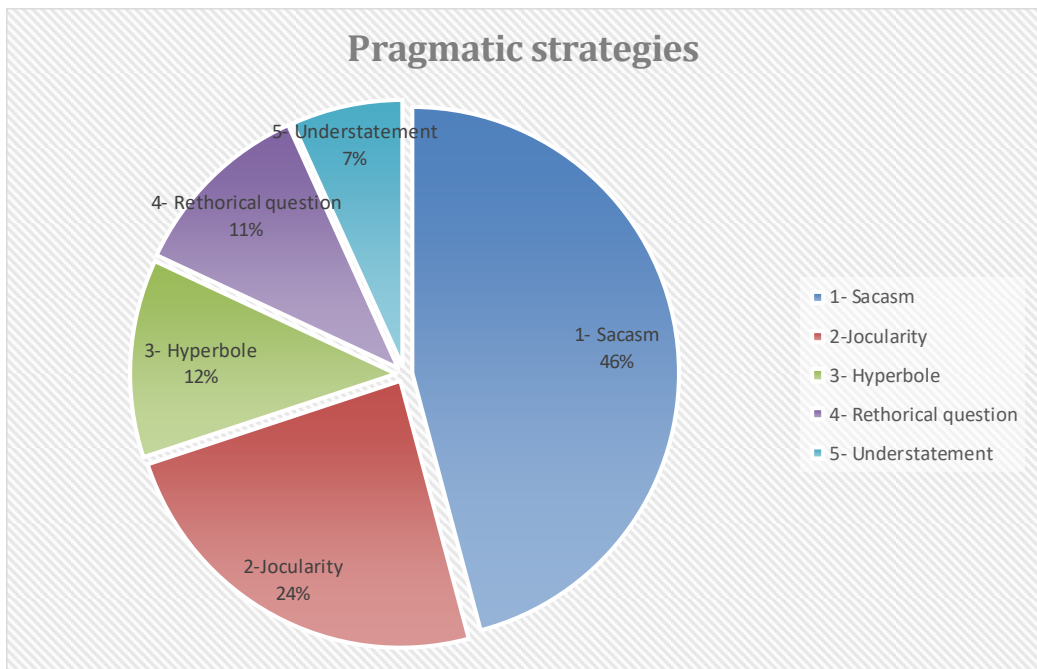
- a- The ironist, one of the contestants, uses understatement as one of Gibbs's (2000) pragmatic strategies to perform irony as he is trying to understate the reality of the height of the other contestant from his team who is the target of the irony. He uses irony to mock the other contestant because he is short. He intends to say that the contestant is too short to reach the buzzer on the table, therefore he asks the presenter (Mr. Jawad) to let him sit on the table in order to be able to reach the buzzer. The contestant flouts the quality maxim because his speech is not true. The contestant knows that although the contestant is short, he is still able to reach the buzzer. Moreover, even if the contestant is unable to reach the buzzer, he is not allowed to sit on the table because it is unsuitable. The non-observation of the maxim of quality is done by the contestant to create irony. By breaking one of the cooperative maxims the audiences reject the literal meaning and this can lead the listeners to produce an implicature to realize the implicated ironical meaning of this utterance.

### **13. Findings and Discussions**

This section discusses the following findings obtained in the current study.

1- By carefully examining the data, 133 ironic situations have been detected from the six episodes of the show.

2- The percentage equation is used as a statistical method to show the percentage of occurrences of pragmatic strategies in the current data .Some pragmatic strategies occupy high frequency in the data which means that they are preferred by the ironists such as Sarcasm (46%) and jocularity (24%). Whereas the other pragmatic strategies have the following percentages: Hyperbole (12%) Rhetorical question (11%) and understatement (7%) as it is shown in the figure 44 below.



**Figure 1: the percentage of occurrences of pragmatic strategies in the data of this study**

It has been found that among the pragmatic strategies, Sarcasm is the most common one, it occupies (46%) of the collected data. While Understatement occupies only (7%).

3- In some ironic situations, more than one maxim have been flouted. The maxim of quality is most flouted one and then the maxims of manner and quantity. Whereas the maxim of relation found only in 27 out of 133 situation.

4- Irony is used generally in '*my family wins*' in order to add a sense of humor when the ironists intended to imply positive intentions, and mocking when the ironists intended to indicate negative intentions. In most situations, the presenter mocks the contestants when they do not know the answer or provide incorrect answers to easy questions. In addition, the ironists also intended to be funnier by using irony instead of producing direct speeches.

5- Significant differences were observed in the number of ironic situations in each episode. Among the six episodes that are selected in this study, one of them has the highest number of ironic situations. It is found that all the eight contestants in this episodes are actors and familiar with each other. This is agreed with some of previous studies which demonstrates that irony is used more among friends or people who are familiar with each other.

6- In some situations the ironist and the target of irony are the same person; the ironist addressed the irony toward himself.

## **14. Conclusions**

1- In addition to many fields like comic shows, irony is used in game TV shows.

2- Most ironic situations are produced by flouting the maxim of quality.

3- Ironists prefer to use certain pragmatic strategies more than others, and sarcasm is the most pragmatic strategy used to create ironic utterances in the current study. This verifies the second hypothesis that



the ironists tend to use certain pragmatic strategies (like Sarcasm) more than others to create ironic situations such as Understatement which is used rarely (occupies only 7%).

4- In most of ironic situations, irony is used to implicate negative intention towards the target of irony in, and only in few cases it is used in order to express positive intentions.

5- It is noticed that the ironists may flout more than one maxim in a single ironic situation during creating ironic situations.

6- The analysis of data reveals two main functions for using irony in game TV shows, mocking and humor. Mocking is used more by the presenter as a function of irony to imply negative intentions when the contestants do not know the answers or provide incorrect answers. Whereas humor is used by the presenter and other contestants to imply positive intentions to present themselves as funnier.

7- Ironic situations take place more among friends or people who are familiar with each other than among strangers.

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## دراسة تداولية عن السخرية في اللهجة العراقية العربية

علي حسين بابا\* وإياد مظفر الرسام\*\*

### المستخلص:

تستكشف الدراسة الحالية وسيلة من وسائل التواصل المهمة التي تُعرف بالسخرية. وتُعد السخرية من إحدى وسائل التواصل اليومية التي تُستعمل من قبل المتكلمين لإيصال مقصد مختلف عما يبدو في المعنى الظاهري. السخرية هي مفهوم تتضمن مدى واسع من المضامين والوظائف التي يمكن أن تكون سلبية أو ايجابية اعتماداً على نية الكاتب أو المتحدث. وقد أجريت دراسات تداولية قليلة جداً فيما يخص السخرية في البرامج التي تقدم باللهجة العربية العراقية.

تبحث هذه الدراسة السخرية تداولياً في إحدى برامج المسابقات في عروض التلفاز (الرائي). وتُحاول الدراسة الحالية تحديد مواقف السخرية اللفظية وتحليلها ومناقشتها في 133 موقفاً ساخراً تم رصدها في ست حلقات مختارة بشكل عشوائي من البرنامج التلفازي مستخدماً نموذجاً انتقائياً يتكون من نموذج كرايس (1975) ونموذج كيبس (2000). كرايس (1975) يقدم أسلوب التعاون ومبادئ الأربعة للتوصل للفعال وتتضمن هذه المبادئ: مبادئ النوعية والكمية والملاءمة والأسلوبية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد مبدأ كرايس الأكثر انتهاكاً خلال لفظ عبارات السخرية وتحديد الاستراتيجيات التي استخدمت لإخلاق السخرية و أيضاً الغرض من استخدام السخرية. تفترض الدراسة بأن مبدأ النوعية هو المبدأ الأكثر انتهاكاً عند إنتاج السخرية وأن هناك استراتيجيات تداولية مفضلة وأكثر استخداماً عن غيرها من قبل الساخرين. أظهرت النتائج بأن غالبية مواقف السخرية تُنتج بواسطة انتهاك مبدأ النوعية. بينما لوحظ بأن التهكم هو الاستراتيجية التداولية الأكثر تفضيلاً في إنتاج السخرية (انظر الشكل رقم 1). فضلاً عن استعمال الاستهزاء من قبل المقدم كسبب من أسباب استخدام السخرية عندما لا يعرف المتسابقون الأجوبة الصحيحة أو عند إعطاء أجوبة خاطئة. بينما استعمل الفكاهة من قبل المقدم أو المتسابقون لتقديم لاضفاء نوع من الفكاهة لحديثهم.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التداولية ، السخرية ، مبدء التعاون.

\* طالب ماجستير / قسم اللغة الإنكليزية / كلية الاداب / جامعة الموصل

\*\* استاذ مساعد / قسم اللغة الإنكليزية / كلية الاداب / جامعة الموصل