

An Analysis of Verbal Humor in *2 Broke Girls* from the Perspective of Conversational Implicature

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Abstract—Humor can be seen everywhere in social communication, and it often appears in conversation in the form of verbal humor. In western culture, humor, regarded as a sort of linguistic art, is a window to understand western culture. Thus, humor comprehension has important practical significance for English learners to better understand, master and use English. This study, based on theories of Conversational Implicature, attempts to analyze the production of verbal humor from the perspective of Cooperative Principle, and an abundance of humorous conversations from the sitcom, *2 Broke Girls*, are collected as analytical material as well, aiming to cultivate English learners' comprehensive ability of American humorous utterances and to improve their intercultural communication competence.

Index Terms—*2 Broke Girls*, cooperative principle, verbal humor, conversational implicature

I. INTRODUCTION

Humor is an enduring research topic for both Chinese and foreign scholars at all times and in all countries. Verbal humor is a crucial sort of humor. The research on verbal humor through pragmatics is a particular direction of humor research in recent years.

Humor, as a kind of colorful art, frequently appears in people's daily life, especially in the form of verbal humor. It is a lubricant for successful communication, a spice for life, and reflects the ingenuity and wisdom in culture. English humor is a window to understand western culture. It plays an important role in English learners' learning procedure.

With the development of video industry, the culture of film and television rises up. The pragmatic analysis of the dialogue will become more and more necessary, and will be paid more and more attention to. The *2 Broke Girls*, a sitcom produced by CBS in Colombia in 2011, has been hit by global audiences since its launch to the present day. At present, there are few researches on the "bankrupt sister" in the field of linguistics. However, the existing researches on humor in the sitcoms of the Department are only limited from the perspective of translation. Based on this, this paper will analyze the verbal humor in "Bankrupt Sisters" from Conversational Implicature Theory.

This paper tries to analyze the verbal humor of the popular sitcom *2 Broke Girls* from the aspect of Conversational Implicature (CI in short) produced by violating of the Cooperative Principles (CP in short). Firstly, a brief introduction of humor and *2 Broke Girls* are made. As the theoretical framework of this thesis, CP and CI are exhaustively introduced. Next, this thesis systematically analyzes of verbal humor which is produced by flouting the four sub-maxims of CP in the selected conversations from *2 Broke Girls*.

In the research procedure, CP and CI are employed as the main principles to identify the scientificity of the production of humor. Meanwhile, utterance selected from *2 Broke Girls* is offered as a good case study for qualitative analysis.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The history of humorous research has experienced a long time, and it can be traced back to the times of Aristotle and Plato. As a promising and valuable topic, the verbal humor of sitcoms has aroused many scholars attention. The studies on humor of domestic and overseas are presented in this part, and the introduction of *2 Broke Girls* is done in the last section.

A. Explanations of Humor

To better understand humor, what we first have to know is its concept. However, humor can be covered in every field, so it is unlikely to give an absolute definition. In short, humor has diverse meaning.

The definition of humor in *Long-man Dictionary of Contemporary English* is various. Humor not only refers to something interesting, but also those funny things make people laugh. (Pearson, 2002, p621) In some Chinese authoritative dictionaries, there are also some definitions about humor. For example, *Ci Hai* explained the comic factors and aesthetic features of humor, and in humorous way, people can amuse themselves and others, change atmosphere, and even improve the level of conversation and expression. (Xiazhengnong and Chen Zhili, 2010, p2766). For another,

in *the Contemporary Chinese Dictionary*, both “funny” and “thinking” are taken into “humor”. (Hou Xiaoru, 2009, p1734) It can be seen that humor is a kind of behavior whose essence can make people feel relaxed or can appear between “executor” and “onlooker”.

All above, the accounting for humor still remains as an intricate issue, which needs further study. The truth is that the definition of humor is divers and extensive.

B. Previous Studies of Humor

As for now, at abroad, studies on humor are based on three theories: Superiority Theory, Incongruity Theory and Relief Theory. Three aspects are related: social-behavioral and emotional, cognitive-perceptual, and psychoanalytical fields. Influenced by these theories, the observation of humor is greatly broad-ended, e.g. from the perspectives of semiology, aesthetics, sociology, linguistics, and philosophy. Such as, Koller illustrated humor from definition of humor to its social function and historical development and transformation in social point of view. (Koller, 1998) While, Hancher expressed his ideas about humor from the perspective of Speech Act. (Hancher, 1980) Yamaguchi firstly applied the mention theory to explain humor and argue the assumption of character violation. (Yamaguchi, 1988) Attardo explained the reason of humor as the violation of Grice’s conversational rules. (Attardo, 1993) Altogether, there are already a lot of literatures that illustrate the production of humor from pragmatics view.

In Chinese, humor is a loan word from western world. The term “humor” was originally derived from Qu Yuan’s works, which means that dogs would attack humans surprisingly. Afterwards, humor was interpreted about something amusing as “You Mo” in Chinese. But the words with the similar meaning have existed for a very long time, such as Xue (讪), Huaji (滑稽), etc. They all include something that makes people feel interesting and funny. Chinese scholars have been exploring humor from pragmatic perspective since 1980s. Mao Ronggui wrote *Analysis of English Humor*, in which the formation of English verbal humor was discussed. (Mao Ronggui, 1993) Yu Hualu analyzed the American Humor of *The Big Bang*. (Yu Hualu, 2010) Xie Mingjing explored the productive mechanisms of verbal humor from the pragmatic perspectives. (Xie Mingjing, 2015) Wang Lu made an interpretation to verbal humor from the relevance theory. (Wang Lu, 2016) Those comprehensive studies have provided a great deal of help to the research on humor in China, which will have long-term effects on future study.

In conclusion, humor kept being studied from different aspects by scholars. On the one hand, the researchers thought humor as a linguistic phenomenon. For another thing, humors in different cultures include various connotations according to language. At last, scholars did not attach adequate importance to the verbal humor generated by violating CP.

C. Brief Introduction of *2 Broke Girls*

American sitcoms are very popular among Chinese people, such as *the Old Friends*, *2 Broke Girls* and *The Big Bang*. *2 Broke Girls* is relatively new. It has 6 seasons so far. It was firstly broadcasted by American CBS television in September 19, 2011. Created by Michael Patrick Kim and Whitney Cummings, the play was set in Brooklyn, New York City and focused on the everyday life of two young waitresses, Max Black and Caroline Channing. At the 38th American Electoral Prize, the play won the prize of the most popular TV comedy.

Max, a beautiful girl with black hair, hot shape and sharp words, worked in a low-end restaurant in Brooklyn, New York with her restaurant colleagues including Han Lee, a small Asian cafe owner, Oleg, a chief who was keen to telling spicy jokes, and Earl, an old black cashier. The new restaurant waitress Caroline was an elegant and blonde girl, who was incompatible with the environment, so Max was curious about the identity of Caroline. It was inadvertently known that Caroline had been a real daughter in Manhattan district. After her father went bankrupted, she went to work in the canteen to survive. The soft-hearted Max kept the homeless Caroline, and although their background was different, the same penniless situation made the two girls be good friends. However, Caroline never forgot to strive to realize her dream and rebuilt a new career. Besides, she encouraged Max to make a plan for her life, and they started a baking business together. Although the fund was not enough, they tried their best to raise. At last, they found their happiness, and succeeded in their business.

Through this sitcom, the diversification of American society incorporating diverse community values, profession, education, culture, lifestyles and so on, is all generally exposed to the audience. The audience may occasionally be triggered by the humorous dialogues among characters.

Over the years, there are a few studies conducted from the CI theory by violating CP throughout the research history on it. In consequence, the paper will make a comparative study on it in the following section.

III. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Grice’s Conversational Implicature (CI in short) and Cooperative Principle (CP in short) are offered in this part. CI and CP were put forward by Grice. Grice thought CP was a significant way to produce CI, thus arousing humor. CP is a very significant principle, which is used to guide the conduct of conversation and comprehension of utterances so that people can mean much more than what they say and produce the conversational implicature.

A. Grice’s Cooperative Principle

Cooperative Principle was proposed and formulated by Grice in his work of *Logic and Conversation*. (Grice, 1975, p47) He referred that in order to keep the conversation going smoothly, people are supposed to be cooperative, which refers to make the 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. (Liu Runqing, 2015, p154) People always cooperate with each other in verbal communication, or it can be failure and people will get the opposite meaning.

The CP principle was divided into four maxims by Grice, and they are Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner.

1. The Maxim of Quantity

- a) Make your contribution as informative as is required.
- b) Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

2. The Maxim of Quality

- a) Do not say what you believe to be false.
- b) Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

3. The Maxim of Relation

Be relevant.

4. The Maxim of Manner

- a) Avoid obscurity.
- b) Avoid ambiguity.
- c) Be brief.
- d) Be orderly.

(Liu Runqing, 2015, p154)

CP means that the speaker should say what is true in a clear and relevant manner. It is important to take these maxims as unstated assumption in conversations. It assumes that people are normally going to provide an appropriate amount of information, and that they are telling the truth, being relevant, and trying to be as clear as they can. (Liu Runqing, 2015, p154) Speakers rarely go around these principles which lay tacitly in verbal interactions. Under some circumstance, people strictly and directly observe these maxims. For instance:

A: *What's the time?*

B: *It's 9 o'clock.*

The speaker hopes that the listener will tell him the time. The listener tells the time in a clear and concrete way and meets the communication needs of the speaker. The hearer has said precisely what he meant, no more and no less. Under this circumstance, the least interesting is there is no distinction between what is said and what is implicated. The Conversational Implicature is equal to what is said (Liu Runqing, 2015, p155).

The CP has the following characteristics. Firstly, it differs from grammatical rules and is not a rule people have to follow when using language. Principles are not black and white, which means that they are not true or false. So the violation of these maxims does not affect the accuracy of the spoken language, but will produce a meaning that makes the dialogue more humorous or more profound. Secondly, these guidelines can be followed or violated, and the guidelines can conflict with each other. Some examples may violate one of the maxims, but sometimes violate several of them. At last, the principle of cooperation and its maxims are the general guidelines for human communication, but it is different from the phenomenon of courtesy that involves cultural features.

B. *Nonobservance of the CP and Conversational Implicature*

In fact, in everyday conversation, people will not observe the CP and its maxims all the time. People sometimes violate them for the purpose of special motivations, and then they violate the maxims and produce their conversational implicature, which means that they consciously or unconsciously flout the maxims for their intended meaning.

In daily talking, speakers' one utterance probably has more than one meaning, which indicates that it may have many extra meanings via combining all the words together. Although speakers' literal meanings and the intended meanings are not always accordant, the vast majority of people still believe that they are apt to communicate with each other. At this time, Conversational Implicature needs to be introduced to solve these problems including the way speakers use to convey their meanings, and the way hearers use to know what the speakers express.

Grice introduced the concept of "implicature" in the paper *Logic and Conversation*. Implicature is a hint, indication or comprehension of "what is said". (Grice, 1975, p14) Grice made a difference between conventional implicature and non-conventional implicature. The meaning of the convention is determined by the statutory meaning of the discourse. For example, "he is a British person, so he is brave." The meaning of the words through the discourse implies that British people are brave. The implication of non-convention is based on contextual knowledge, including the speaker's share, the time of the speech, and the occasion. The contextual meaning of the above example is a non-conventional implication. Grice called it "conversational implicature". Why did such conversational connotations arise? Grice believed that our conversational communication was normally made up of a series of coherent discourses, and was one or a group of common purpose of which each participant was aware to some extent, and it was at least one direction that was accepted by each other. This purpose or direction may be determined from the beginning, or it may be gradually formed during the exchange process, and was the result of the joint efforts of the participants. Thus, CP was put forward by Grice. In his opinion, CI was produced by violating the CP. Grice's conversational implicature theory has completed the transition from meaning to implicature, which is a major breakthrough in pragmatics research. CI provides an

explanatory theory for studying human linguistic communication. Therefore, after the emergence of Grice's Conversational Implicature theory, linguists from various countries showed great interest, and then various studies were inexhaustibly produced. Among them, some were supplementary, some were revisions, and some were reconstructed, which promote the development of CI theory research. Linguists often regarded these developments as "new Grice's Conversational Implicature theory". (Niu Baoyi, 2002, p7-8)

In social communication, people often violate the principle of cooperation intentionally or unintentionally due to courtesy or contextual needs, or to create humorous effects. Violation of the principle of cooperation does not necessarily create an obstacle to communication. On the contrary, intentional violations of cooperation principle often result in special conversational meanings and pragmatic meanings. At this time, the speaker is not cooperative, but uses the principle on another level. This also means that the listener has to conclude the purpose and the implied meaning that the speaker violated the cooperation according to the context at that time. Humor is often produced in the process of inference of implicit meaning. Humorous effects in the conversation often make the conversation vivid, interesting and meaningful. This paper will focus on humor, a special conversational implicature, arisen by violating the four maxims of CP.

IV. ANALYSIS OF VERBAL HUMOR IN *2 BROKE GIRLS*

A. *Humor Produced by Violating the Quantity Maxim*

As the first maxim of CP, the maxim of quantity means that interlocutors should provide detailed information in your conversation so that you can better understand each other, but not more informative than required for the current purpose of the exchange. If the communicator provides too much or too little information, it will cause the other communicator to misunderstand the speaker's intention, thus providing an opportunity for humor. Meanwhile, in order to achieve the goal of successful communication, the speaker needs to transmit the complicated and complete information. During the conversation, many speaking strategies are employed. The play-words are often designed to violate the maxim to attract audience's attention and produce humorous effect. In this part, some conversations will be analyzed to study the violation of the maxim of quantity used in the dialogue and the production of humor.

Conversation 1:

Customer A: Don't you have a passion project? Something you've always wanted to do?

Customer B: Yeah, you can't want to be a waitress for your whole life.

Max: Yeah. Actually, I do have a Kickstarter idea. I'd like to kick your ass.

(Episode 1, season 3)

Max, the protagonist in the *2 Broke Girls*, was a prominent figure in the creation of laughter, because she was extremely good at violating the maxim of quantity. In this dialogue, customer asked whether Max had a dream. In terms of the quantity maxim, Max needed to answer yes or no for the question. However, when she said yes, the other rude words were superfluous. The reason was that Max worried that the customer would constantly ask her as a waitress and made fun of her, and she was proactive in expressing her disdain and impatience with the guests with an interesting utterance. The drastic change in attitude made audience roll in the aisles, and the humorous effect was reached by violating the quantity maxim.

Conversation 2:

Max: Oh, hey. You ready?

Customer: I can't. I just can't. Everyone feels like that. The first few times I eat here. It's like heroin.

Max: It makes you, and you think "I'll never do that again", and here we are.

(Episode 2, season 3)

When the customer came to restaurant, Max asked him for an order. "Are you ready to order" was a general question. However, after the customer said "I can't", he offered more response to what is not needed, and of course, unnecessary. By providing more information, he countered the maxim of quantity, which indicated that the dishes were terrible, but he had no choice to eat here. Max went on the superfluous words, thus the humorous effect was produced and the restaurant saved its face.

Conversation 3:

Caroline: I'm Caroline.

Waiter: Well, nice to meet you, but we don't be friends. I don't get touched. All my life, I've been a waiter, 27 years. And I don't get personal, so don't ask me how old I am. I'm 53, but my face is 5.

(Episode 8, season 4)

In this dialogue, Caroline and Max wanted to train the new-coming waiter. After Caroline introduced herself, the long answer of waiter obviously contained more information than expected to hear, so the waiter violated the maxim of quantity. This also showed that waiter was totally uninterested in the training. It is precisely because of this violation that the humorous effects of speech can be presented.

B. *Humor Produced by Violating the Quality Maxim*

In terms of the maxim of quality, it requires people to provide truthful and reliable information in their dialogues.

They cannot lie and tell false words. However, in actual communication, the speaker is out of politeness or to achieve some irony, metaphor or exaggerated rhetorical effect, and uses some false or insufficient evidence to hide the true feelings, so as to take account of the face of the receiver, which produces the humorous effects. The protagonist of the play often goes against the authenticity of the expression by exaggerating and irony, and is compatible with the expression, thus producing a comic effect.

Conversation 4:

Max: What's that?

Caroline: I don't know. How would I know?

Max: Because it came out of your head.

Caroline: I don't have hair extension, Max.

Max: Oh, I'll throw it out.

Caroline: No! I'll keep it for this story!

Max: What story?

Caroline: The story about how we found a blonde hair extension out of nowhere that night. It's hilarious!

Max: Oh, look, there's another hilarious story!

Caroline: All right, Max, I have hair extensions.

(Episode 8, season 3)

When Caroline said hello to a handsome man, she touched her hair for a good impression, but her extended hair lost. When Max asked Caroline, "what is this?" Caroline said, "I don't know where it comes from." Obviously, Caroline first violated the maxim of quality. The hair was from Caroline, but she lied to Max and expressed that she didn't know them. When Max said she'll throw it out, Caroline said she would keep it for a story that a blonde hair extension out of nowhere, and she still didn't admit that she had hair extension. Thus, she violated the maxim of quality again, but at last she made a confession to Max with a funny look. To prevent with the Max's asking, the comic effect were achieved.

Conversation 5:

Han: Welcome to the Williamsburg Diner. I'll be your waiter, Han.

Sophie: Who's the new girl? I don't like her.

Han: A waiter, not a waitress.

Sophie: I don't like the new girl.

(Episode 2, season 6)

This conversation happened when Sophie came to restaurant, Han as a waiter served for her. When Han asked her, Sophie said "who's the new girl? I don't like her." Han was a man. "The new girl" was not consistent with the fact. Obviously, she violated the authenticity maxim. After Han corrected her, she still called him "a new girl", and she told lies again. Apparently she did not tell the truth for twice, and exaggerated her words, and she violated the maxim of quality. In addition, her answer was mockery that Han was short and was womanish, which showed her humor and made people laugh.

Conversation 6:

Han: I don't know why I can't catch a break from you two I had to put up with Max's heartbreak over her LA boyfriend Randy for months. It was more indulgent than Beyonce's Lemonade.

Max: How dare you?

Caroline: She's a queen.

(Episode 1, season 6)

It happened that when Caroline and Max called up an owner meeting in restaurant, Han needed to wear the waiter uniform, but he was not willing to wear. So he was angry at this decision, and he satirized Caroline and Max why not catch a break to open a dessert. After he put up with Max's broken-time, he regarded himself as Beyonce as indulgent. But the fact was not true. He was narrow-minded and bitter. What he said was obviously a lie. And he violated the authenticity. Max and Caroline's responses also identified this fact, but saved this awkward situation, and humor was created.

C. Humor Produced by Violating the Relation Maxim

As for this maxim, the information given by the speaker should be relevant in order to ensure that the conversation process smoothly. That is, to say something related to the topic, but to say nothing about the topic. In the communication, if the receiver avoids or does not answer questions about the speaker's topic, it will violate the criterion of relation. At this moment, humor may arise. The humor associated with the relation, is either because of ignorance, or is to avoid responsibilities or contradictions, or is because of other reasons. And as the pace of life quickness, people are more and more concerned about their own affairs. It's getting harder and harder to get their attention and interest while keeping them from getting bored. Interesting conversations for sitcom must be related to people's needs and interests.

Conversation 7:

Caroline: Max, look around. We did it.

Max: And it only cost every cent we got from your big movie deal.

Caroline: And the weed money you were hiding in that box labeled "Not weed money."

Max: I'm gonna go check out the bathroom again. You know you've made it when you have an industrial flush.

(Episode 2, season 6)

It happened when Max and Caroline opened their dessert bar, the two girls wanted to employ a bartender. At the same time, Caroline felt their success, and said to Max, "We did it." Actually, what Max needed to answer was "yes, we did". But she said this dessert bar cost all the money that Caroline got from a big deal, which was irrelevant to Caroline's words. After Max said, Caroline moved on Max's words, which kept the conversation going. Although Max's response was irrelevant, she expressed their hardship of starting a business in a humor way, and she was proud that she had Caroline this friend.

Conversation 8:

Max: Hey, I'm sleeping at Dick's house tonight. Wink, wink, wink, wink.

Caroline: Dick's house? You mean your boyfriend's dumpster?

Max: Yeah, so I need a, uh....

Caroline: Tetanus shot? Higher standards?

Max: No, a condom.

(Episode 14, season 3)

In this conversation, Max was going to spend the night at her boyfriend's house, and she needed to take birth control tonight. When she said to Caroline what she needed, Caroline first spit out a tetanus needle to indicate that her boyfriend's big bin was not clean. This unanswered utterance seems to be irrelevant, but makes the audience laugh.

Conversation 9:

Han: I guess with all your movie money you two can move on and I can hire two waitresses who don't use my office as a gambling hall.

Max: Caroline already spent all the movie money on the dessert bar. Also, I you're your office in 20 minutes. We're interviewing a new roulette dealer.

Han: Can you at least tell people not tout cigarettes out on my family photos. There's a giant hole in my grandma.

(Episode 2, season 6)

In this dialogue, Caroline and Max would take part in their press junket to promote the movie, so they needed a short break. But Han was not willing to allow. So Han said these words to make a crack with them. Max followed his words and said, "We will interview a new roulette dealer." However, Han's response seemed to be irrelevant, and he said, "Do not ask these people to tout cigarette out on my family photos." Although it was not a direct answer, he tacitly approved her words. The discursive answer saved the awkward atmosphere created by Han himself, and saved the relationship among them. The purpose was that Han wanted to tell them not often to take time off. By violating the maxim of relation, the comic effect was achieved, and the relaxing atmosphere was created.

D. Humor Produced by Violating the Manner Maxim

For the maxim of manner, it is related to "how to say". Violation of the manner means that the speaker often uses puns, ambiguous speech or verbal abuse of the language when he speaks. In this way, ambiguity is resulted, and humor is also produced. In our daily conversation, successful communication can be created by violating the manner.

Conversation 10:

Sophie: It's coming! It's coming! It's here.

Oleg: the baby?

Max: a baby. Oh, good, our goober driver's here.

(Episode 2, season 6)

Given the dialogue scenario, Sophie was having a baby and she needed a car to go to the hospital. When she said, "It's here. It's here", what she pointed "it" was that the car was coming. But Oleg believed that 'it' was the baby. And the ambiguity occurred, and the maxim of manner was violated. Meanwhile, Max regarded Han as the baby, so the misunderstanding of baby was full of ambiguity. But the tense atmosphere was relieved, and Oleg could be relaxed. Although they violated the maxim twice, their expression made audience feel funny. Enjoying this humorous conversation, ambiguity can bring humor without question.

Conversation 11:

Tour guide: Look, girls, I'm not just talking about your business. All the business on that block is gonna closed. It's getting plowed for an IMAX theatre.

Caroline: Oh, my god.

Max: I know. Another Max is getting plowed on our block.

(Episode 1, season 5)

This dialogue happened when Caroline and Max looked for the tour guide and asked for an explanation that he bad-mouthed their business. However, the tour guide accounted for that an IMAX theatre would be built on this block, and all business would go down. But 'Max' was full of ambiguity. Max made an interpretation for 'Max' of IMAX as a person called the same name with her, Max. Max deliberately uttered ambiguous words to express her true ideas, and humor was also produced.

Conversation 12:

Max: Oleg, how do you feel about Dogs?

Oleg: Loved it. Saw it nine times on Broadway. Very clever show but a little expensive.

(Episode 3, season 3)

Max wanted to take in a stray dog, but Caroline's opposition was a problem. Max had to inquire in the circle of friends if anyone wanted to adopt. When asked Oleg, Max's questioning violated the guidelines of the manner, because during the conversation, the question "How do you feel about dogs?" was ambiguous, which made the expression more humorous. The zero article "dogs" can abstractly represent animals such as dogs, and can also denote the musical "Dogs". Oleg's comprehension of the question belongs to the latter.

The tactics above are classified on the basis of the violation of the four maxims under CP: quality, quantity, relation, and manner. In this paper, it focuses on the conversational implicature by the successful employment of the language skills when one of the four maxims of CP is violated. From all the instances, people are able to understand why the guests choose to violate the maxim, and take advantage of CI and CP to create humor in their conversation. At the same time, beyond the help of these maxims, people will improve their speaking skills, and then a successful interpersonal relationship can be kept, and an efficient exchange can also be achieved. The most important is that people will also better understand the verbal humor of the western situation comedy, and the multi-cultural communication can be realized.

V. CONCLUSION

Humor is a kind of wisdom that can reflect one's personality, thoughts, and level of education; and it can also reflect one's ability to use language, improve social relationship, and create a relaxed working environment for others. Humorous words contain wisdom, which is characterized by making people laugh. Humor not only shows a relaxing and positive attitude, but also euphemistically expressed opinions, evaluations and critical suggestions. In short, verbal humor has great social functions and research value. *2 Broke Girls*, as a prevalent sitcom, not only offers joy and laughter to the audience, but also brings various surprise for life.

CI is a good way to illustrate the production of humor as a special conversational implicature. Humor in English is diverse and ever-changing, thus CI and CP do not explain all humorous discourse. In addition to CP and CI, humor is inseparable from national culture, history, and natural laws of society. This paper mainly analyzes the emergence of humor in *2 Broke Girls* from the aspect of violation of CI, which will help people better appreciate American comedy, and make English lovers and learners get the charm of English and its related culture, and keep the conversation going smoothly. Of course, the linguistic data in *2 Broke Girls* is very abundant. This paper lists only a few. More humor is needed for the audience. The *2 Broke Girls* has been broadcasted to the sixth season, which can bring more joy to the audience while it can also bring more research perspectives for scholars. As a result, the study of verbal humor from the aspect of violation of CP under CI theory is just a narrow perspective, and it can be improved from the perspective of both the width and depth.

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