LANGUAGE USAGE, SENSE RELATION, AND MEANING ANALYSIS IN
UNDERSTANDING THE ENGLISH JOKES

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ABSTRACT

A written joke is an exciting form of writing. Generally, people from any generation, social class, and gender love joke. There is a pleasure in having our emotions directly stimulated when reading it, and we all enjoy the laughter that follow a good joke. The problem which is often faced by joke readers is that several jokes are difficult to understand.

The reason above motivated the writer to analyze the jokes based on abusive language, sense relations analysis, and meaning in context. As the source of data, the writer took a joke book entitled “1001 Cool School Yard Jokes”. In this study the writer only analyzed several written jokes which are relevant to the aim of research.

The data consists of 31 written jokes, a half of which were found to be under Meaning in Context Category, the remaining are under Sense Relations Category (that involves synonymy, hyponymy, antonyms, polysemy, and homonymy), and Abusive Language Category. It proves that Meaning in Context Category is the type of joke with the highest level of acceptance without racial or gender prejudice. The three categories above can also be used as a strategy to understand English jokes.