



SARCASM USED BY NETIZENS ON TWITTER CASE OF ELECTION BIDDEN-TRUMP ERA

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ABSTRACT

Sarcasm is the crudest style of the syndicate language, and its delivery always shows something that is not pleasant to hear. The research intends to discover types of sarcasm from netizens on Twitter during American Election 2020. The data consist of sentences, phrases, and words that contain sarcasm. The researcher uses the sarcasm theory of Camp (2011) secluded into 4 types they are Propositional Sarcasm, Lexical Sarcasm, Like-Prefixed Sarcasm, and Illocutionary Sarcasm to define depicted sarcasm that used by netizens on Twitter. After analyzing sarcasm on Twitter, the researcher found several types of sarcasm they are 22 tweets contain propositional sarcasm, 13 tweets contain lexical sarcasm, 5 tweets contain like-prefixed sarcasm, and 10 tweets contain illocutionary. Propositional sarcasm becomes the dominant type found in this research.

INTRODUCTION

Language becomes an important part to convey ideas, emotion, and communication. Language is the body of words and the system for their use in communicating that are common to the people of the same community or nation, the same geographical area, or the same cultural tradition (Verderber, 1999). Humans use words or utterances that contain language styles in their daily interactions. We can find out the dirty and rough language firstly sarcasm that has been heard in various places nowadays. Dirty language is no longer a new phenomenon, been many experts have observed sarcasm, satire, and irony.

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Social media is no exception to platforms where resentment and indecency language can be discovered. Technology can affect the style of language by reshaping the way individuals communicate, interact, share information, coordinate activities, etc. Nowadays, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tiktok, and more various social media platforms become devices where free to have opinions and express their feelings that they are perceived without having to fear whether it offends others or creates a bad impact on certain parties. Twitter is not spared from a digital platform that is used as a medium for communication and this research focuses on discussing uncovering sarcasm that finds out on Twitter.

An example of a case that provokes a commotion on Twitter is the American Election of 2020 held in November 2020 which also will be uncovered the type of sarcasm found out. By exemplifying this case, it can be considered two 2 camps are divided because they have their respective ideals toward their presidential candidate. When they have resentment towards other candidates, they tend to say things that are less obscene or quite rude and this can be an example of a phenomenon in life surfing on social media case as Twitter. Not a few of them contain inappropriate sentences or better known as sarcasm.

Zappavigna (2012) argued that humor, which can include sarcasm, is used on social media to maintain relationships and express affiliation. Social media image that includes sentences of praise, humor, or other positive expressions that involve related parties in expressing satirical opinions. Sarcasm has been characterized as a form of wit “intended to insult, mock, or amuse,” (Riloff et al., 2013, p. 704). In this study, it is evidenced by tweets from netizens that satirize related parties as well as cursing, insulting, and making fun of their statements and It can not be diminished. It has been characterized as sarcasm becoming a device for joking, teasing, wordplay, and mockery (Boxer & Cortés-Conde, 1997). The matter complicates the rough statement clad by humor and praise for joking and teasing.

Sarcasm usually referred to as a figure of speech is a verbal irony that expresses negative and a critical attitude towards a person or event (Kreuz and Glucksberg, 1998). Although it contains hidden negative meanings, sarcasm is a type of attack than other forms of incivility. Sarcasm conveys through the use of nonliteral language such as irony, which assumes that the audience will understand that the speaker’s intended meaning is the contrast to what the speaker is saying (Whalen et al., 2009). Fundamentally, as Attardo (2000) stated, „there is no consensus on whether irony and sarcasm are essentially the same things or if they differ significantly“.

Although there are irony and cynicism that also implies synergy, this sarcasm is cruder than irony and cynicism. Sarcasm is the crudest style of the syndicate language, and its delivery always shows something that is not pleasant to hear (Kerraff, 2008).

TYPES OF SARCASM

Camp (2011) proposed four types of sarcasm; propositional sarcasm, lexical sarcasm, „like“-prefixed sarcasm, and illocutionary sarcasm. All four varieties invert something that the speaker pretends to mean (or presupposes someone else to have meant) relative to an evoked normative scale. But the target of the sarcasm, and the result of the inversion, vary widely depending on the species involved. Lexical sarcasm delivers an inverted compositional value for a single expression or phrase. „Like“-prefixed sarcasm commits the speaker to the emphatic epistemic denial of a declarative utterance’s focal content, and illocutionary sarcasm expresses an attitude that is the opposite of one that a sincere utterance would have expressed.

Propositional Sarcasm

Propositional sarcasm is a form of propositional sarcasm that serves to convey implicatures inversely proportional to their true meaning. Propositional sarcasm functions most like the traditional model, delivering an implicature that is contrary to a proposition that would have been expressed by a sincere utterance. This type of sarcasm is the most straightforward and streak-to-the-point sarcasm because it is presented in the opposite direction to reality (Camp, 2011 and Dinari, 2015).

Example: *James must be a real hit with ladies* (Camp, 2011)

Example (1) seems not to have sarcastic utterances. However, the real situation that occurred in the field is that James is not a popular man among ladies so it is unlikely to happen to James. The speaker in this case aims to express the meaning behind the proposition to mock James.

Lexical Sarcasm

Camp (2011) argues that lexical sarcasm provides an inverse composition value for a single expression. Speakers tend to use positive expressions with praise at the beginning of the phrase but are often followed by phrases that have a negative tone (Dinari, 2015). What distinguishes it from propositional sarcasm is on an evaluative scale where lexical sarcasm appears to have a closer and natural relationship and is clear in expressions such as 'brilliant,' inspired ',' genius ', diplomat',

and 'happy' in the first sentence and end with a negative meaning in the last sentence while the propositional is not like that (Camp, 2011) as in

Example: *If Alice is so brilliant, then she will be the perfect dupe for our little plan* (Camp, 2011)

The sentence (2) above seems to use the positive expression in the initial sentence but it is accompanied by a negative value on the phrase „the perfect dupe” which shows the speaker pretends to honor the address.

Like-Prefix Sarcasm

This type of like-prefixed sarcasm is similar to propositional sarcasm, but in this type of sarcasm, there is only a merging of the sarcasm statements with a declarative sentence. In propositional sarcasm is very strongly implied by the speaker and contrary to the intention to be expressed, whereas in „like“-prefix sarcasm shows a statement that is more clearly seen denied by the speaker. Denial of an idea is even better automatically because the possibility of denial has a greater advantage. Like-prefixed implicates to form of meaning inversion specifically. As well as this type is more likely not to cause ambiguity.

Example: *“Like it’s a nice cool day today”* (Camp, 2011)

In the example above, the statement of the speaker shows that the weather on that day is cool. But in reality, the weather was hot with the hot sun. The statement is clearer and easier to understand the content of the sarcasm by the speech partner because it is supported by a conflicting situation.

Illocutionary Sarcasm

Illocutionary sarcasm expresses the opposite of what the speaker will express. In this type, sarcasm is not only seen from the elements in a speech but can become a unified whole including other speech acts that accompany it. Illocutionary sarcasm covers all relevant implicatures including specific implicatures so that sayings functions to provide an evaluative attitude towards the actual situation. Such as speech expressing, compassion, admiration, or praise.

Example: *“How old did you say you were?”* (Camp, 2011)

In this example, a speaker asks the age of the speech partner. But the speaker does not intend to tell about the age of the speech partner, but only a satire. The speaker asks that question as a form of teasing his speech partner who is acting childish.

METHOD

In this research, the authors used qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant’s setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The final written report has a flexible structure. Those who engage in this form of inquiry support a way of looking at research that honors an inductive style, a focus on individual meaning, and the importance of rendering the complexity of a situation (adapted from Creswell, 2007).

The source of data for this research is tweeted from netizens on Twitter during the election day of America. The researcher used tweets that have posted from 1st November 2020 – 30th November 2020. The data needed were gathered from 50 tweets and all of them are words or phrases or sentences that related to sarcasm and election day of America on Twitter.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

Based on 4 types of sarcasm revealed by Camp (2011), this research found all of the types from tweets on Twitter during American Election 2020. This research found that 50 tweets contain Propositional sarcasm, Lexical Sarcasm,

Like-prefixed sarcasm, Illocutionary sarcasm,

Tabel 1. Result of The Research

No.	Types of Sarcasm	Amount of Data	Percentage
1.	Propositional	22	44%
2.	Lexical	13	26%
3.	Like-prefixed	5	10%
4.	Illocutionary	10	20%
Total		50	100%

Propositional Sarcasm

Tabel 2. Data 1

Date	Tweet
Nov 7, 2020	@Lucaswebb105: <i>A Real President right here.</i>

This tweet can be categorized as propositional sarcasm because the account looks straightforward to convey his/her opinion. The tweet seems not to have a sarcastic utterance, however, we can assume the tweet was posted by Trump's supporters so we can conclude this tweet is sarcasm because the tweet can be interpreted as a satire of Joe Biden. The account in this case aims to express the meaning behind the proposition to mock the position of Joe Biden. In this case, the account posted a tweet on replied to @JoeBiden (one of the candidates for President of the United States) "*The numbers tell us a clear and convincing story: We're going to win this race.*"

Tabel 3. Data 2

Date	Tweet
Nov 8, 2020	@HolmSvea: <i>We have an actual PRESIDENT again. I've never been happier. Glad I stuck around for this.</i>

In the sample above we can consider the tweet can be categorized as propositional sarcasm. If we can analyze the sentence, it can be categorized as a sentence that satirizes the winner of the election at that time. The actual president in that context could imply that the president is not recognized by the population. The attitude and implementation of the system that does not match the expectations of the residents. This tweet was posted a tweet on replied to

@JoeBiden (one of the candidates for President of the United States) "*The numbers tell us a clear and convincing story: We're going to win this race.*"

The tweet may not have sarcastic utterances, however, we can assume the author of this tweet is Trump's supporter. The things that have been posted could insinuate Joe Biden, who was then Trump's rival. So it can be concluded that this tweet seems to be stating in reverse with

its real intent. Sentence: “*I’ve never been happier. Glad I stuck around for this.*” It can be interpreted as an insinuation that he was never happy at all with Joe Biden's tweet about the dominant vote for Joe Biden.

Lexical Sarcasm

Tabel 4. Data 3

Date	Tweet
Nov 28, 2020	@MichaelRKing6: <i>trump is so smart he paid to find out he lost you more votes!</i>

This tweet replied to a tweet from @maddow "*Trump paid to have a recount...*". Based on the tweet above, it can be categorized as lexical sarcasm. Lexical sarcasm tends to use positive expressions but is often followed by negative effects. As we can see, this account put the phrase “*trump is so smart*” which can indicate resentment tweets who want to mock Trump. The hidden meaning can be stupid, dumb, or satirical words who has the opposite meaning from smart.

Lexical sarcasm is speakers tend to use positive expressions with praise at the beginning of the phrase but are often followed by phrases that have a negative tone. The phrase “*Trump is so smart*” is included as a positive expression but this tweet is followed by a negative value “*he paid to find out he lost you more votes!*”. As we can see from the analysis above, we can conclude this tweet is lexical sarcasm. We can assume this account is Joe Biden’s supporter that’s why He posted this tweet as partly innuendo to Trump. This tweet seems to portray the stupidity of a Trump who runs for president and pays quite a lot for it. Even though Trump will lose a lot of votes.

Tabel 5. Data 4

Date	Tweet
Nov 28, 2020	@withoutAsong: <i><u>#BidenCheated</u> is as funny and wrong as saying Trump is smart.</i>

As we can see from this tweet indicates sarcasm and it can be categorized as lexical sarcasm. The sentence consists of “*#BidenCheated is as funny and wrong as saying trump is smart*”. If we can break down the sentence, the phrase “*#BidenCheated*” might have a negative

context but this sentence is also followed by the phrase “*as funny and wrong like saying trump is smart*” which changes the context of the whole sentence. This account seems to want to express its opinion that Trump is not smart and Biden is not cheating. The hidden meaning of this tweet can be seen in the satire words that were intended to mock Trump. In lexical sarcasm, speakers tend to use positive expressions with praise at the beginning of the phrase but are often followed by phrases that have a negative tone.

As a result of the analysis, this tweet can be categorized as lexical sarcasm. If we’re looking for the final phrase, the author posted *saying trump is smart* but the initial phrase that said *#BidenCheated is as funny and wrong*. This sentence stated that Joe Biden couldn’t cheat and it was a mistake. Whereas Joe Biden's fraudulent remarks are as unlikely as the clever.

Like-Prefixed Sarcasm

Tabel 6. Data 5

Date	Tweet
Nov 20, 2020	@aniceburrito: “ <i>President Donald Trump's strategy for retaining power despite losing the U.S. election</i> ” is a cool opening line”

This tweet can be categorized as like-prefixed sarcasm. This tweet is a bit dismissive of reality. In the sentence above, we can see how the author insinuated Trump and argued that Trump's statement was cool. Even if we conclude, Trump's defeat is an uncool thing for Trump's supporters. According to Camp (2011), Likeprefixed sarcasm shows a statement that is seen to deny by the speaker. Denial of an idea is even better automatically because the possibility of denial has a greater advantage. Like-prefixed implicates to form of meaning inversion specifically.

The word “cool” define sarcasm who not actually have a literal meaning. It can be intended to satire Trump. As we can see, this account looks like wants to celebrate the loss of Trump by saying” *is a cool opening line*”. Therefore the author tried to deny reality by writing sarcastic sentences by insinuating Trump. It can be assumed that he is not a Trump supporter. This account also posted an article about Trump's speech from reuters.com and shared his opinion on Twitter. It can be concluded, that this tweet is like-prefixed sarcasm.

Tabel 7. Data 6

Date	Tweet
Nov 11, 2020	@DaCount6: <i>“Oh boy. Now we get to hear hardcore MAGA says, “hell yeah!” and softcore MAGA says, “a little harmless joking about ignoring the results of an election is cool and funny!”</i>

The sentence *“a little harmless joking about ignoring the results of an election is cool and funny!”* can be categorized as like-prefixed sarcasm. As we can see from the definition of like-prefixed sarcasm, shows a statement that is seen to deny by the speaker. Talking about ignoring the results of an election as the tweet said, we can not say that is a cool or funny way with a little harmless joking. Ignoring the election results is an act of contradiction, in fact, the act of triggering fights both on social media and in the real world. It can be assumed that the author chose to deny the real situation. This tweet replied tweet from @cspan: @SecPompeo: *“There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration.”*

Illocutionary Sarcasm

Tabel 8. Data 7

Date	Tweet
Nov 29, 2020	@Acyn: <i>Trump: They say you don’t have standing. You mean as president of the United States, I don’t have standing. What kind of a court system is this?</i>

Based on this tweet we can categorize it into illocutionary sarcasm. In this type, sarcasm is not only seen from the elements in a speech but can become a unified whole including other speech acts that accompany it. Illocutionary sarcasm covers all relevant implicatures including specific implicatures so that sayings functions to provide an evaluative attitude towards the actual situation. Based on the tweet above, the sentence *“What kind of a court system is this?”* is the way to provide an evaluative and the sentence seemed to insinuate the system that occurred in America that Trump

was not allowed to do this. So Trump asked what kind of system this was sarcastically and it was retweeted by this account.

Tabel 9. Data 8

Date	Tweet
Nov 29, 2020	@HKitambula: <i>Who is your President? How many presidents do we have?</i>

Based on the tweet above we can categorize it into illocutionary sarcasm. Based on a Camp theory about sarcasm, this type is not only seen from the elements in a speech but can become a unified whole including other speech acts that accompany it. Illocutionary sarcasm covers all relevant implicatures including specific implicatures so that sayings functions to provide an evaluative attitude towards the actual situation. This tweet replied to another tweet from @ernest198:

.....On a normal day you wouldn't merit a response from me but demeaning my president in the name of a handout epitomizes unintelligence. But if you choose to be unintelligent do it on your own and leave our president out. [#WeAreRemovingADictator](#)

Behind the tweet that asked "*Who is your President? How many presidents do we have?*" there is a meaning that mocked the president who has held the position at that time. Because the president mentioned in the tweet from @ernest198 that "*On a normal day you wouldn't merit a response from me but demeaning my president in the name of handout epitomizes unintelligence*" but this tweet got a response that contains sarcasm in it. At least he didn't ask who your president is? But he wanted to ask what kind of president should be respected because it seems as if no president can be respected until this moment who fits the characteristics mentioned by @ernest198, namely being intelligent. And in the final sentence, the author asked again "*How many presidents do we have?*" this tweet seems to ask how many presidents can be respected as @ernest198 wrote.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes the result after analyzing the sarcasm that used in tweets on Twitter, the researcher Twittercted 50 tweets that were posted from 1st November 2020 – 30th November 2020 as it considered that there are four types of sarcasm those were found in tweets

on Twitter according to Camp (2011) and also used pragmatic and semantic approach as a medium to analyze the tweets. There are 22 data of Propositional, 13 Lexical, 5 Like-prefixed, and 10 Illocutionary. The dominant sarcasm that is used is propositional with a 44% percentage. As it is considered, propositional is a type that represents people who straight forward in conveying their opinion. This type aims to express the meaning behind the proposition to mock people.

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