The Phenomenon Of Dark Humor On Twitter: In-Depth Analysis Through Semantic Study

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the types of dark humor found on Twitter and uncover the meanings of dark humor found on Twitter. This study employs a qualitative research design using a semantic approach. The data source for this study is derived from the social media platform Twitter. The data consists of tweets that exhibit dark humor on Twitter. The population for this study is tweets from Twitter users in text format that potentially contain dark humor from the years 2011 to 2023. The sampling technique used in this study is total sampling. Data collection techniques utilized in this study include documentation and note-taking. The results of the study reveal the presence of ten types of dark humor found on Twitter, namely sexual, educational, political, familial, ethnic, medical, thief-related, orphan-related, religious, and mental dark humor. Additionally, the meanings of the dark humor discovered encompass lexical, grammatical, referential, non-referential, denotative, connotative, word, term, conceptual, and associative meanings.

Index Terms: semantics, dark humor, tweets, Twitter.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication system used by humans to convey information, ideas, and emotions to others. Language consists of various elements such as sounds, words, phrases, and grammar that are used to form sentences and meanings. Language can be spoken, written, or conveyed through gestures depending on the type of language used. Each language has different rules and conventions and can reflect the culture, history, and identity of a society or group of people. Language can be used as a tool to strengthen social relationships, understand the needs and desires of others, and foster cooperation and harmony between individuals or groups of humans. Therefore, effective communication relies on the use of good language skills.

Communication is a process of exchanging information that requires feedback from others. Good and effective feedback occurs when there is a shared meaning. Nowadays, communication has become a social activity. This means that communication is a process of creating a linguistic environment that can take two forms: oral communication and written communication. These two forms are often encountered in everyday life. However, in this research, the focus will only be on written communication on Twitter. Communication through social media has become easier as it can be done remotely. It is inherent in human nature to always stay connected with others. This is an effort made to overcome their isolation and also the desire to know what is happening beyond oneself and the environment they live in.

Dark humor, commonly known as dark jokes, is a form of communication that tends to create smiles and laughter, often unconsciously, for those who read or hear such humor. Dark humor is created by combining comedy and tragedy based on reality. It often addresses suffering and turns it into a joke. Dark humor plays an important role in human life as it can entertain, release tension, and reduce psychological burdens for its audience. Besides being a source of entertainment, dark humor also contains information, education, and inspiration for the general public.

Dark humor on Twitter is an intriguing linguistic phenomenon worth discussing. Texts in Twitter tweets undoubtedly carry messages and meanings that the authors want to convey to the readers, creating a communicative process between them or among multiple individuals. Therefore, further observation and research are needed to uncover the true meaning intended by the authors of these tweets.

Dark humor, despite its name sounding negative, has a significant impact on people who read it. One of the impacts is its ability to create a positive effect, such as generating a sense of happiness, making people smile or laugh. However, dark humor can also have negative effects on its readers. This occurs because individuals have different senses of humor. Additionally, past experiences and the environment in which one lives also influence the impact of dark humor on individuals.

Dark humor on Twitter is essentially a joke that can make someone laugh. However, when observed and analyzed with a linguistic perspective, dark humor possesses a powerful meaning that can alter a person's emotions. The meaning of dark humor goes beyond portraying funny situations or expressing something comical; it can also depict someone's life story through difficulties. Without examining its meaning, dark humor remains merely a joke to be laughed at.

This research focuses on the phenomenon of dark humor on Twitter. Dark humor, which can be somewhat crude as it addresses themes of death, illness, and other sensitive subjects, is often considered inappropriate for jokes. However, when examining the texts of dark humor on Twitter, it is evident that they receive various comments and reactions. Therefore, dark humor on Twitter serves not only as entertainment but also prompts readers to think critically about life events and issues.

Research on the types and meanings of dark humor using a semantic approach has been conducted by several previous researchers. This indicates the existence of relevant studies, and their findings can serve as useful references for this research. Some researchers who have conducted similar studies include Wahyudin (2017) in a thesis titled "Ungkapan dalam Naskah Bocco Tallu Etnik Mandar: Kajian semantik" (Expressions in the Bocco Tallu Ethnic Mandar Manuscripts: A Semantic Study). Another research was conducted by Rahmawati H. (2018) in a thesis titled "Kekuatan Makna Ungkapan Bijak dalam Novel 'Rindu' dan 'Pukat' Karya Tere Liye: Kajian Semantik" (The Power of Meaning in Wise Expressions in the Novels 'Rindu' and 'Pukat' by Tere Liye: A Semantic Study). Furthermore, a study by Hendik Ediarso and Mulyono (2021) in a journal article titled "Resolusi Keganjilan Hubungan Antarklausa dalam Humor Gelap Berjenis Kalimat Majemuk: Kajian Sintaksis dan Humor" (Resolution of Peculiarity of Clause Relations in Dark Humor of Compound Sentences: A Study of Syntax and Humor).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Semantics

The study of meaning (Aminuddin, 2015:5). Pateda (2010:7) states that semantics is a subdiscipline of linguistic science that discusses meaning, in other words, the object of semantics is meaning. Kridalaksana (2008:216) argues that semantics is a part of language structure that relates to the meaning of expressions and the structure of meaning in discourse. Chaer (2013:2) also defines semantics as a term used in the field of linguistics that studies the relationship between linguistic signs and the things they signify, which are called meaning or sense. Semantics is a part of language structure that deals with the meaning of expressions and the structure of meaning in discourse. Another definition of semantics is the science related to the meaning or sense of words (Suhardi, 2013:68).

Based on the aforementioned opinions, it can be concluded that semantics is a field of linguistic science that focuses on meaning. The object of semantic study is the meaning of language. More specifically, the meaning of language units such as words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and discourse (Chaer, 2013:6). In order to have a clearer understanding of meaning, further elaboration on meaning, its aspects, types, and relations will be provided.

Meaning is the object of semantics, which is a broad study of language. According to Chaer (2013:29), meaning is an inseparable part of semantics and is always inherent in what humans utter. The lexical understanding of meaning can be described as the speaker's intention, the influence of language application on human perception or behavior, and the relationships in terms of equivalence or non-equivalence between languages or utterances and all that they denote. Aminuddin (2015:53) provides a definition of meaning, from which three essential elements can be identified: (1) meaning is the result of the relationship between language and the external world, (2) the determination of relationships occurs through agreement among users, and (3) the manifestation of meaning can be used to convey information and promote mutual understanding. Meaning is the relationship between sound symbols and their referents. The form of response to stimuli obtained by an individual in communication, based on associations and acquired knowledge, can be referred to as meaning (Rahmawati and Nurhamidah, 2018:3).

Said (2002:18-20) distinguishes types of meaning based on criteria and perspectives. These types of meaning can be classified into five categories:

1. Based on their semantic nature, meanings are categorized into two types:

a) Lexical meaning: It corresponds to the reference and observations of the five senses. For example, the word "dog" refers to a "carnivorous mammal with the widest distribution, weighing between 1-6 kg."

b) Grammatical meaning: It is derived through grammatical processes such as affixation, reduplication, and composition. For example, adding the prefix "ter-" to the base word "injak" results in "terinjak" (stepped on).

2. Based on the presence or absence of reference in a lexeme, meanings are categorized into two types:

a) Referential meaning: It directly relates to the referent observed by the lexeme. Referential meanings refer to objects, qualities, characteristics, events, processes, and so on. For example, the word "flower" (noun).

b) Non-referential meaning: It is the opposite of referential meaning, meaning it does not have a specific referent like referential meanings do. Examples include prepositions, conjunctions, and function words such as "ke" (to), "dan" (and), "karena" (because), and "dengan" (with).

3. Based on the presence or absence of emotional value in a lexeme, meanings are categorized into two types:

a) Denotative meaning: It is based on the simple denotation of something outside language or based on specific agreements. This meaning is derived from visual perception, olfaction, audition, tactile perception, or other empirical observations.

b) Connotative meaning: It is based on emotional value or its relation to the utterance and perception of the lexeme. This meaning is generally subjective because individuals may have different associations with the lexeme.

4. Based on the accuracy of a lexeme's meaning in its usage (both generally and specifically), meanings are categorized into two types:

a) Word meaning (broad meaning): It is a meaning that is not used accurately. The inaccuracy of usage is still separate from the context of the sentence. For example, the word "kotor" (dirty) can refer to something that is stained, but it can also refer to a person who has committed evil deeds.

b) Term meaning (narrow meaning): It is a meaning that is used correctly, fixed, and clear within a specific domain, even without the context of a sentence.

5. Based on the relationships (such as reflection and association) between the meaning of one lexeme and another lexeme, meanings are categorized into two types:

a) Conceptual meaning: It corresponds to the concept itself, meaning it aligns with the referent and is independent of association or relation to other meanings.

b) Associative meaning: It refers to the meaning of a lexeme in relation to its connection with the external world. This meaning can coexist with connotative meaning since associative meaning is related to moral values and prevailing life perspectives in a language community.

The classification of these types of meanings is the result of summarizing various opinions from experts (Lyions, 1977:34; Hadiwidjoyo, 1993; Pateda 1989), resulting in these five classification criteria (Said, 2002:16-17). Pateda (2010: 88-96) divides meaning into four aspects: sense, feeling, tone, and intention.

B. Humor

Humor is a verbal or visual effort to make listeners or viewers smile or laugh. In addition to being entertainment, Wijana (2003:3) explains that humor can free people from the burden of fear, confusion, cruelty, and suffering. Humor is a way to stimulate thoughts through language play, body movements, and other symbols that can evoke sympathy and amusement (Eka, 2020). Herawati (2007) states that humor is a highly favored activity by certain members of society, which not only serves as a means of entertainment but also expresses the reality of everyday life.

According to Ediarso (2021:1), humor is one way of thinking in terms of social criticism. The criticism, feedback, and messages discussed address social conditions and life issues. From a psychological perspective, humor is a reaction characterized by the judgment that something is wrong, positive emotions from the conversation, and a tendency to laugh.

This study employs the theory of linguistic humor. Soedjatmiko (1992) divides linguistic theories of humor into two categories: semantic theory of humor and pragmatic theory of humor. The semantic theory of humor utilizes ambiguity by juxtaposing different meanings of a word or phrase. On the other hand, the pragmatic theory of humor exploits violations of speech acts principles. The aim of this

study is to identify constituent changes within humor, therefore, it does not employ pragmatic theory in its analysis.

According to Astuti (2006:20), there are various types of humor. Based on their topics, humor can be divided into eight types, namely sexual humor, educational humor, political humor, domestic humor, family humor, ethnic humor, doctor humor, and thief humor.

C. Dark Humor

Dark humor, also known as black humor, is a form of comedy or joke that uses taboo themes or touches on sensitive subjects and turns them into humorous content. The taboo or offensive nature of the topics involved leads some individuals or communities to view humor as something negative. The term "dark jokes" is derived from English, where "dark" refers to something gloomy or sinister, and "joke" refers to humor. Therefore, dark jokes can be understood as "dark humor." Dark humor is a type of humor that carries multiple meanings, making it difficult to grasp, as it evokes various emotions and feelings in individuals, such as surprise, disgust, emotions, embarrassment, and joy (Gubanov et al., 2018:379). According to Willinger et al. (2017:166), understanding dark humor requires a higher level of intelligence.

Dark humor can elicit negative biases, which is why it requires a deeper understanding to appreciate its meaning. As a result, some individuals avoid this type of humor (Ford et al., 2015:172). However, despite its controversies, humor actually has positive aspects. Research conducted by Willinger et al. (2017:165) indicates the following findings.

The results of the current study show three distinctive groups with respect to comprehension as well as preference of black humor. The most surprising result is that subjects who show the highest values with respect to black humor preference and comprehension show high values with respect to intelligence, have higher education levels and show lowest values regarding mood disturbance and aggression. On the other hand, subjects who show average verbal and nonverbal intelligence scores as well as high mood disturbance and high aggressiveness show the lowest values with respect to comprehension and preference of black humor.

The statement indicates that despite its dark name, dark humor actually serves a beneficial purpose for its enthusiasts. Currently, dark humor functions to transform tragic events in a person's life into abstract ideas. These abstract ideas are

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derived from the events that occurred and help reduce the psychotraumatic perception of real phenomena. Therefore, dark humor fulfills a psychological defense function (Gubanov et al., 2018:382). Booth-Butterfield (in Mukhlis, 2016:29) emphasizes that humor is an intentional behavior, both verbal and nonverbal, aimed at eliciting positive responses in the form of laughter and joy. In the case of dark humor, intentionality begins with a fundamental sensitivity towards the surroundings, followed by implicit delivery, creating a new perspective.

III. METHOD

This study employs qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research can be understood as a research procedure that utilizes descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from observable individuals and actors. The data source for this research is collected from social media. The type of data in this study is written data in the form of dark humor tweets. The population in this study consists of Twitter users' tweets in text format that potentially contain dark humor from the years 2011-2023. The sampling technique used in this study is total sampling. Total sampling is a sampling technique where all members of the population are used as samples. The sample in this study comprises tweets in text format that exhibit dark humor. The data collection technique employed in this study is divided into two, namely documentation and note-taking techniques. The documentation technique is carried out by taking screenshots when encountering relevant data on Twitter. The discovered data is then recorded and identified. To facilitate the classification of the identified data, the note-taking technique is employed using a data table. This study utilizes qualitative descriptive analysis.
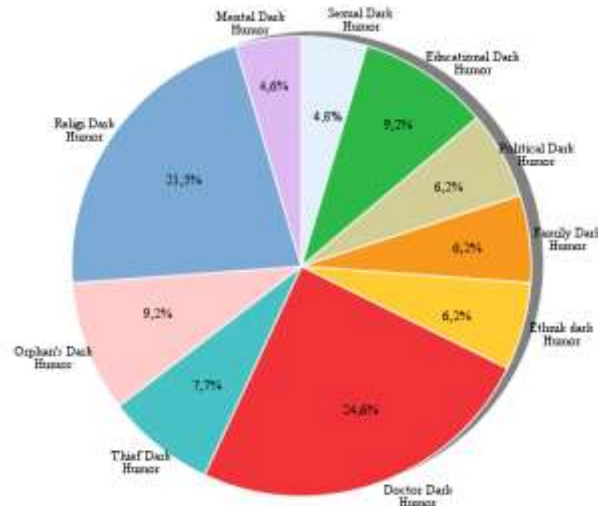
IV. RESULTS

Based on the identification conducted, there are ten types of dark humor on Twitter and ten meanings of dark humor. The classification and analysis of the dark humor can be seen in the following description.

A. Classification of Types Dark Humor on Twitter

In this study, the types of dark humor found refer to the theories proposed by Astuti. Astuti classified dark humor into eight types, but this research has identified three additional types of dark humor that were not previously identified. The additional types of dark humor found in this study are orphan,
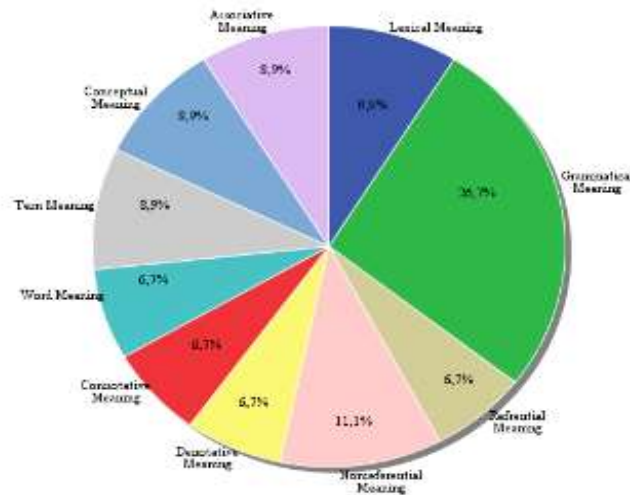

mental, and religious dark humor. On the other hand, one type of dark humor, which is domestic dark humor, was excluded from the classification due to insufficient and irrelevant data found. Therefore, this study identified a total of ten types of dark humor, as shown in the following pie chart.

Future 1. Types of Dark Humor

On the pie chart above, it can be observed that the type of dark humor with the highest number of data is doctor dark humor, comprising 16 data points with a percentage of 24.6%. This is followed by religious dark humor, with 14 data points and a percentage of 21.5%. Education and orphan dark humor each have 6 data points, accounting for 9.2% of the total. Thief dark humor has 5 data points, representing 7.7%. Ethnic, family, and political dark humor each have 4 data points, making up 6.2%. The lowest recorded dark humor types are sexual and mental, both having 3 data points and a percentage of 4.6%.

B. Classification of Meanings Dark Humor on Twitter
The meanings of dark humor in this study were identified through the analysis of tweets written by Twitter users. Ten types of meanings of dark humor were discovered in this

research, namely lexical, grammatical, referential, non-referential, denotative, connotative, word, term, conceptual, and associative meanings. Further details about the meanings of dark humor can be seen in the following pie chart.

Future 2. Meaning of Dark Humor

Based on the pie chart, it can be concluded that grammatical meaning is the most common type of meaning, comprising 12 data with a percentage of 26.7%. Non-referential meaning follows with 5 data and a percentage of 11.1%. Association meaning, conceptual meaning, and term meaning each have 4 data with a percentage of 8.9%. On the other hand, word meaning, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, and referential meaning have the lowest number of data, which is 3 with a percentage of 6.7%.

V. DISCUSSION
The research findings presented above indicate that the use of dark humor on Twitter encompasses various types and carries different intentions and meanings for Twitter users. The authors of the tweets deliberately employ dark humor to elicit responses from readers. These aspects will be further elaborated in the following discussion points.

A. Types of Dark Humor on Twitter

Based on the previously classified research findings, the following will be discussed in more detail regarding the types of dark humor found on Twitter.

(a).   Sexual Dark Humor

Sexual dark humor is a form of dark humor that revolves around sexual themes. It involves using taboo subjects related to sex as the basis for jokes or comedic content. This type of humor explores sensitive and often controversial topics related to sexuality in a way that may be seen as unconventional or boundary-pushing. This can be seen in the following example.

Example (1)

Setelah melewati persidangan, Sarah Azhari hanya dijatuhi hukuman 4 Bulan. Krna dua BOM Di dadanya tdk terbkti meledak. (@bebas-lepas, 18 Juni 2011).

[After the trial, Sarah Azhari was only sentenced to 4 months because the two bombs on her chest were not proven to have exploded]. (@bebas-lepas, June 18, 2011).

Example (1) is a type of sexual dark humor that uses **breasts** as the object of the joke. This can be seen in the linguistic marker in the form of the phrase **two bombs in his chest.** While there is no intention of referring to explosives, the phrase gives a clear meaning of **breasts.** While this humor may be considered humorous by some readers, some may find it crude and offensive especially as it addresses vital women's issues.

(b).   Educational Dark Humor

Dark humor in education is a type of humor that utilizes issues related to education as a source of jokes or comedic content. It revolves around topics such as learning, students, and knowledge. The humor often highlights the ironic, absurd, or challenging aspects of the educational system or experiences.Here is an example of dark humor in education.

Exampel (2)

Mampir ke surabaya kak biar ngerasain simulasi neraka. (@127woo__, 23 September 2022).

[Visit Surabaya, sis, so you can feel the simulation of hell]. (@127woo__, September 23, 2022).

Dark humor on Twitter does not only explain funny things, but also includes teaching related to education. This can be seen in example (2) where Surabaya is described as a very hot area. This can be seen in the sentence to Surabaya, Sis, so that I can experience a simulation of hell. Surabaya is the capital city of East Java and is known as the hottest city in Indonesia. The

word simulation in this sentence refers to a depiction or imitation of the actual situation, while the word hell refers to a place of torment for infidels and lawless people in Islam. The purpose of this dark humor is to satirize the fact that Surabaya is very hot. This type of dark humor is included in the type of educational dark humor because it provides learning about cities in Indonesia that have very hot weather.

(c).   Political Dark Humor

Political dark humor is a type of dark humor related to political topics. This type of humor is often used to ridicule or criticize politicians, or as a form of protest against an unjust political system. However, inappropriate use of political humor can also elicit negative reactions from others. The examples are as follows.

  Example (3)

  Enaknya disuapin pake uang rakyat (@qodrnfal, 3 Februari 2023).

  [It's good to be fed with people's money]. (@qodrnfal, February 3, 2023).

    As seen in example (3), we can see dark political humor. This is marked by the discussion of bribery. The word bribed in this example is a play on the word bribe. In the political sphere, bribery is an act of giving money by a government official to do something that is contrary to his obligations. This dark humor offends officials who have paid bribes using people's money.

(d).   Family Dark Humor

Family dark humor is dark humor related to family problems. This type of humor is raised by relating sensitive family issues such as divorce, domestic violence, or conflicts between family members and turning it into a joke. The examples can be seen below.

Example (4)

Emak kebelet nyuruh gw nikah, kirain pengen gw bahagia tau nya biar gw keluar dari rumah (@NewbieNFTs, 1 Februari 2023).

[My mother wanted to tell me to get married, thought she wanted me to be happy, so I would get out of the house]. (@NewbieNFTs, February 1, 2023).

    Based on example (4) it can be seen the type of family dark humor. This can be seen in the sentence my mother was dying to tell me to marry. The word mother refers to someone who is older. The word mother is a non-standard form of the word

mak which in Indonesian means 'mother or female parent'. The word mother is also commonly used as a word of address for women who deserve to be called or considered equivalent to mother.

This sentence is included in the family's dark humor because it describes the condition of the child who was asked by his mother not to stay at home because it was always a hassle. This can be proven in the sentence Kirain wants me to be happy, you know, so I get out of the house.

(e).   Ethnik Dark Humor

Ethnic dark humor is dark humor related to social groups in social or cultural systems that have a certain position. The position is based on heredity, custom, religion, and language. The examples can be seen below.

Example (5)

Gimana caranya ngangkut 100 orang yahudi dalam 1 mobil?. Gampang! Kan mereka semua cuma abu. (@GelapHumor, 13 November 2020).

[How do you transport 100 Jews in 1 car? Easy! They're all just ashes]. (@GelapHumor, November 13, 2020).

Example (5) is a type of ethnic dark humor characterized by discussion of social groups. This can be seen in the sentence how to transport 100 Jews in 1 car? The word Jew refers to a nation from Israel. This dark humor relates to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. In this dark humor, people who have died and turned to ashes are made the butt of jokes, as seen in the easy sentence! they're all just ashes. Their phrases are all just ashes referring to people who have died.

(f).Doctor Dark Humor

Doctor's dark humor is dark humor related to the doctor's problems. This type of humor is raised by associating doctor's problems such as illness as a joke. The examples are as follows.

Example (6)

Emosi waktu dilampu merah saat ada penggalangan dana buat orang sumbing, tiba2 ada pemotor yang nyomot dan ngambil semua uang dikotak, reflek langsung gw cegat dan nanya "knp uang ny kamu ambil" semua orang kaget waktu dia buka helm sambil ngomong ''ngan nyaknya nyuknga nyukming mang. (NewbieNFTs, 29 November 2022).

[Emotions at the red light when there was a fundraiser for cleft people, suddenly a motorbike stopped and took all the money

in the box, on reflex I immediately intercepted it and asked "why did you take the money" everyone was shocked when he opened his helmet while saying "it's okay, it's okay" Come on, bro]. (NewbieNFTs, November 29, 2022).

The doctor's type of dark humor can be seen in the example (6). This is indicated by a linguistic marker in the form of the word cleft. A cleft person is a term for people with lip disease from birth. This dark humor describes a person taking fundraising money. This dark humor is made funny because the person who took up the fundraiser is also a cleft person. This can be seen in the sentence "everyone was shocked when he took off his helmet while saying 'ngan nyaknya nyuknga nyukming mang' which means 'I am cleft mas'.

(g).   Thief Dark Humor

Dark humor about thieves involves making jokes about stolen items and using them as the basis for humor. Here are some examples:

Example (7)

Niat mw nyuri kotak amal dimesjid, pas gw angkat kok berat, baru sadar ternyata tulisan kotaknya amal buruk. (NewbieNFTs, 27 Januari 2023).

[I intended to steal the donation box at the mosque, but when I lifted it, it felt heavy. It was then I realized that the box was labeled 'Bad Karma'.] (NewbieNFTs, January 27, 2023).

Example (7) represents dark humor about thieves. This dark humor explains the situation or effects caused by a thief. This can be seen in the sentence, "I intended to steal the donation box at the mosque, but when I lifted it, it felt heavy. It was then I realized that the box was labeled 'Bad Karma'." According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), a donation box is a "box used for collecting charitable donations or contributions, usually placed in public areas such as mosques, stores, or schools." This dark humor represents criticism of others, as seen in the sentence, "It felt heavy when I lifted it, and I realized that the box was labeled 'Bad Karma'." The intention behind this dark humor is to satirize individuals who have more bad karma than good deeds.

(h).   Orphan's Dark Humor

Dark humor about orphans involves making jokes about the issue of orphaned children. This dark humor refers to a type of dark humor that is related to the issue of children who have lost one or both of their parents. This type of humor takes examples

of situations where children have lost their parents and uses them as a basis for jokes. Here are some examples:

Example (8)

Apa sebutan lain dari anak yatim piatu yang sedang selfie?

Jawaban: seseorang yang sedang berfoto keluarga. (komedi_gelap, 27 November 2022).

[One alternative term for an orphan taking a selfie would be "someone taking a family photo]. (komedi_gelap, November 27, 2022).

I apologize if the previous response was deemed inappropriate or offensive. It was not my intention to be disrespectful or insensitive. I understand that dark humor about orphans can be a sensitive topic, and it's important to approach it with care and consideration. Thank you for bringing it to my attention, and I'll make sure to be more mindful in the future. If you have any other questions or need further assistance, please let me know.

(i). Religious Dark Humor

Dark humor about religion is a type of dark humor that revolves around religious issues. This type of humor is presented by associating religious matters and turning them into jokes. Here are some example

Example (9):

Sesungguhnya ngitung berkat Tuhan satu per satu itu adalah pekerjaan yg gak tahu kapan kelarnya. (@HumorGereja, 18 Oktober 2013).

[Indeed, counting God's blessings one by one is a never-ending job.] (@HumorGereja, October 18, 2013).

Example (9) represents a type of dark humor about religion. Dark humor about religion is characterized by discussions about an individual's beliefs. One example of dark humor about religion is found in example (9). This can be seen in the sentence, "Indeed, counting God's blessings one by one is a never-ending job." This dark humor has two components of meaning, both positive and negative. The positive meaning of this dark humor explains that God's blessings are unlimited. The word "blessings" is often used in Christianity to express gratitude. The negative meaning of this dark humor lies in the sentence, "counting God's blessings one by one is a never-ending job." The word "job" refers to an action or task, but in this context, it implies that counting God's blessings should not be done, as one should always be grateful without quantifying them.

(j). Mental Dark Humor

One type of dark humor found on Twitter is dark humor about mental health. "mental" pertains to aspects related to a person's character and inner self. Derived from the Latin word "mens" (mentis), it signifies soul, spirit, essence, or mind. Meanwhile, according to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), "mentalitas" refers to the activities of the soul, one's way of thinking, and emotions. The following are some examples of dark humor about mental health.

Example (10):

Eh tadi kan gue beli cake ya harganya mahal tapi rasanya ga enak. Yang gue beli ternyata cake kecewaan huehuehue,,, (@Deleyriust, 31 Agustus 2022).

[Hey, earlier I bought an expensive cake, but it tasted bad. Turns out, the one I bought was a disappointment cake huehuehue...]. (@Deleyriust, August 31, 2022).

Example (10) represents a type of dark humor about mental health. It is characterized by the use of linguistic markers in the sentence, such as "Eh tadi kan gue beli cake ya harganya mahal tapi rasanya ga enak" (Hey, earlier I bought a cake, it was expensive but tasted bad) and "yang gue beli ternyata cake kecewaan" (turns out, what I bought was a disappointment cake). The phrase "rasanya ga enak" expresses the creator's feeling. The creator of the humor is disappointed after buying an expensive cake that didn't taste good, as indicated by the phrase "cake kecewaan" (disappointment cake). The phrase "cake kecewaan" is a play on words to create humor.

B. Meaning of Dark Humor on Twitter

Based on the previously classified research findings, the following will be discussed in detail about the meaning of dark humor found on Twitter. The interpretation of dark humor is conducted to shed light on its meanings, which can sometimes lead to misinterpretation. The meanings to be elaborated in this study include lexical meaning, grammatical meaning, referential meaning, nonreferential meaning, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, word meaning, term meaning, conceptual meaning, and associative meaning.

(a). Lexical Meaning

n this research, one of the meanings of dark humor found on Twitter is lexical meaning. Lexical meaning refers to the meaning of a word as a standalone unit, often referred to as dictionary meaning. The lexical meaning to be explored in this

research is the use of words in a sentence that deviates from their intended meaning. Here are several examples of the use of lexical meaning:

Example (11)

berbahagialah kalau hidupmu masih diselimuti masalah. itu tandanya kamu manusia. karna kalau diselimuti wijen itu berarti kamu onde onde. (@AkuWongSehat, 23 September 2020).

[Be happy if your life is still enveloped by problems. It means you're human. Because if you're enveloped by sesame seeds, it means you're onde onde.] (@AkuWongSehat, September 23, 2020)

Example (11) falls under the category of dark humor with a lexical meaning. The word "diselimuti" comes from the Indonesian language and is derived from the root word "selimut," which means "blanket." The lexical meaning of "selimut" includes "a cloth used to cover the body (especially during sleep)" and "something (action, etc.) used to cover up crimes (evil intentions, etc.)." According to its lexical meaning, the word "diselimuti" is not appropriately used in the given sentence. However, it is used by Twitter users in a context unrelated to its original meaning.

In the sentence "berbahagialah kalau hidupmu masih diselimuti" (be happy if your life is still enveloped), it represents dark humor with the meaning that "if there are always problems in life, it signifies that we are still human." In this context, the word "diselimuti" conveys the sense of being surrounded or filled.

In dark humor, the use of a lexical meaning that deviates from the expected context or intention can create surprise or contrast, resulting in a humorous element. In this example, the word "diselimuti" is used in a context that is unrelated to its original meaning, creating surprise or irony that contributes to the effect of dark humor.

Overall, example (11) utilizes the lexical meaning of "diselimuti" to create a humorous twist regarding the constant presence of problems in life, emphasizing the human experience.

(b). Grammatical Meaning

Grammatical meaning is the meaning that appears after the basic word undergoes a grammatical or grammatical process. Based on the results of observations in the study, the grammatical meanings found in this study were affix analysis, adding the confix nge-in, adding the infix, adding the prefix nge,

and removing the prefix meng-. The following is an example of data on the use of affixes in dark humor found on Twitter.
Example (12)
Mampir ke surabaya kak biar ngerasain simulasi neraka. (@127woo, 23 September 2022).
[Stop by in Surabaya, sis, so you can feel a hell simulation.] (@127woo, September 23, 2022).

The word feel in the example of dark humor above comes from the root word rasa. The word taste means 'the response of the senses to nervous stimulation such as sweet, bitter, sour to the sense of taste, or hot, cold, pain to the sense of taste. The grammatical form of the word is the occurrence of the nge-in confix.

feel + feel + in = feel

When viewed from the context of the dark humor, the meaning of the word to feel is to feel the heat in Surabaya.

(c). Referential Meaning
Dark humor with a referential meaning is dark humor that has references. Referential meaning is related to the reality that occurs. There are several dark humors that have referential meanings which can be seen below.
Example (13)
Nonton film azab tiap hari bukan nya tobat malah hafal lagu opick. (@_fvckb0y, 3 Februari 2020).
[Watching the doom movie every day, instead of repenting, instead memorizes the Opick song.] (@_fvckb0y, February 3, 2020).

The phrase watch the doom movie is a linguistic marker indicating that the dark humor has a referential meaning. The word watching doom films has references to an activity of seeing. However, in this dark humor, watching doom films has no effect because when watching a film another thing that appears is memorizing songs which often become the sound in the film.

(d). Nonreferential Meaning
Dark humor with non-referential meaning is dark humor that has no reference or referent. Nonreferential meanings are generally prepositions, conjunctions, and assignments. Examples of non-referential meanings can be seen below.

Example (14)

Tak ada pekerjaan berat di dunia ini. Pekerjaan seberat apa pun akan terasa ringan apabila tidak dikerjakan (@itsmeajir, 25 Februari 2022).

There is no hard work in this world. Any heavy work will feel light if it is not done (@itsmeajir, 25 February 2022).

The word will in the example above is a preposition base word. This root preposition consists of one morpheme. The word can be said to have a non-referential meaning because it has no reference and has no meaning.

(e). Denotative Meaning

Denotative meaning is a meaning based on a straightforward designation of something outside language or based on certain conventions. This meaning is present in dark humor according to observations based on sight, smell and others. There are several examples of the use of denotative meaning in dark humor. This can be seen below.

Example (15)

Kukira air mineral aja yang murni, kebodohanmu ternyata lebih murni (@itsbdskrm, 19 Juni 2022).

[I thought it was pure mineral water, your stupidity is actually purer.] (@itsbdskrm, 19 June 2022).

In example (15) the dark humor has a denotative meaning. The meaning which is based on dark humor directly leads to a convention that occurs. This can be seen in the linguistic markers in the form of the sentence I thought mineral water was pure, your stupidity turned out to be purer. This dark humor offends the ignorant directly.

(f). Connotative Meaning

Dark humor found on Twitter utilizes words that carry connotative meanings to prevent immediate offense to the readers. Connotative meanings are often employed by tweeters to convey messages indirectly. These meanings contain emotional values, both positive and negative. There are several instances of dark humor that involve words with connotative meanings. This can be observed in the following example:

Example (16):

bapak kamu semen yaa, kok udah kecampur tanah. (@Insomniyo, 8 November 2020).

["Your father is cement, huh? Why is he already mixed with soil."] (@Insomniyo, November 8, 2020)

In the aforementioned dark humor example, the word "cement" carries a connotative meaning. This can be seen from its usage in the context of the sentence. The word "cement" in this dark humor does not align with its conventional meanings. According to the Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI) or the Indonesian Dictionary, "cement" refers to 1) the mixture of lime or other substances used to bond bricks, 2) powder made of lime or similar materials used to create concrete, and 3) the calcium deposit that sticks to teeth. However, in this dark humor, the intended meaning of "cement" is a deceased person who is buried in a grave. Therefore, in this dark humor, the word "cement" carries a connotative meaning.

(g). Word Meaning
The meaning of words, often referred to as broad meaning, is when words are used in dark humor in an inappropriate and imprecise manner. The imprecision refers to the use of words that are detached from the context of the sentence in the dark humor. Here are some examples of the usage of word meanings found on Twitter.

Example (17):
Pas makan di Mekdi ngeliat anak pengemis yg baru keluar dari toilet mandangin gw makan dari luar kaca yg begitu bersih, Ga lama karyawan keluar buat ngusir anak ini, Reflek gw suruh karyawan bawa anak ini masuk, Dia tanya"mas mw bayarin dia?" Gw jawab"suruh masuk toilet lgi mas". (NewbieNFTs, 28 Januari 2023).
["When eating at McDonald's, I saw a beggar child coming out of the toilet and looking at me eating from the clean glass. Shortly after, a staff member came out to shoo the child away. Reflexively, I told the staff to bring the child inside. He asked, 'Sir, should I pay for him?' I replied, 'Tell him to go back inside the toilet, sir.'"] (NewbieNFTs, January 28, 2023)
In example (17), the word "masuk" (enter) is an example of a word with a broad meaning. This creates ambiguity or multiple interpretations in the dark humor. The word "masuk" brings about two meanings. The meaning understood by others is entering the dining area. However, the intended meaning by the speaker is going back inside the toilet.

(h). Tern Meaning
The meaning of terms, often referred to as narrow meaning, is the precise use of words that remain consistent in dark humor.

The use of these words, even without context, can be certain because they are written in a fixed manner. This can be seen in the following examples.

Example (18):

Atheis gk akan bisa dapat jodoh karna jodoh ada di tangan tuhan. (@itsme_kazuyaa, 15 November 2020).

["An atheist will never find a soulmate because soulmates are in the hands of God."] (@itsme_kazuyaa, November 15, 2020).

In example (18), the dark humor utilizes an efficient sentence structure that does not cause confusion for the reader. This dark humor describes how someone without faith or religion will not find a soulmate because soulmates are in the hands of God.

(i). Conceptual Meaning

The conceptual meaning found on Twitter is a dark humor that uses words, phrases, or sentences that align with its humorous concept. Examples of conceptual meanings can be seen below.

Example (19):

meninggal kok pake jas, itu mayat mau ngelamar kerja?. (@moraLnt, 17 Desember 2020).

"Why is the deceased wearing a suit? Is the corpse applying for a job?" (@moraLnt, December 17, 2020)

In example (19), the dark humor questions the way a deceased person is cremated. This dark humor describes a corpse wearing a suit and humorously connects it to the concept of job application, specifically referencing the burial traditions of the Christian religion.

(j). Associative Meaning

The associative meaning is the meaning in dark humor that evokes connections and memories of other things discussed in the humor. This occurs due to a shift in meaning from one word to another based on their shared characteristics.

Example (20):

pas 17 agustus gua pasang bendera merah putih eh temen gua kok kuning. (@moraLnt, 24 Desember 2020).

["On August 17th, I put up the red and white flag, but my friend's turned out to be yellow."] (@moraLnt, December 24, 2020)

In example (20), the dark humor creates an association with a symbol when reading it. The sentence mentions putting up the red and white flag, but the friend's flag turns out to be

yellow. The yellow flag associates with someone who has passed away.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, the following conclusions can be drawn. There are ten types of dark humor found on Twitter, namely sexual dark humor, educational dark humor, political dark humor, family dark humor, ethnic dark humor, doctor dark humor, thief dark humor, orphan dark humor, religious dark humor, and mental dark humor. These types of dark humor mentioned refer to previously established theories. However, the research also discovered three types of dark humor that have not been identified before. These include religious dark humor, orphan dark humor, and mental dark humor. The indirect meanings within their context need to be analyzed to avoid misinterpretation by the readers. From the analysis, ten meanings of dark humor based on semantic theory were identified. The meanings of dark humor found on Twitter include lexical meaning, grammatical meaning, referential meaning, non-referential meaning, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, word meaning, term meaning, conceptual meaning, and associative meaning.

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