

# KRITIK SOSIAL DALAM FOLKLOR KOMPUTER

Prof. DR. James Danandjaja, MA.

With the increasing popularity of the use of computer in the United States there is a new subfield of American Folklore known as computer folklore. This new subfield focuses on computer and its users, the intricacies of technology or its specific characteristics. Computer folklore hasn't been fully documented even though it started to be quite popular at the end of the 1940s. Because it mainly discusses aspects of urban life or its sophisticated folks it is also called urban folklore.

## Pendahuluan

Dengan menjadi semakin populernya pemakaian komputer di Amerika Serikat, maka timbulah kajian mengenai Folklor Komputer, yang merupakan sub disiplin dari Ilmu Folklor Amerika. Kajian ini mempelajari baik mengenai komputer sendiri dan para penggunanya, maupun yang beredar di antara para penggunanya, khususnya dengan cara teknologi, atau berdasarkan sifat-sifat khusus dari teknologi. Folklor Komputer belum banyak didokumentasikan orang. Folklor mengenai komputer timbul sejak akhir tahun 1940-an, dengan anggapan umum bahwa kemampuan berpikir komputer adalah melebihi kemampuan manusia, kadang-kadang bersifat ilahiat, seperti digambarkan contoh berikut ini.

IBM baru saja memasang komputer terbarunya di perguruan tinggi MIT (*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*), dan beberapa tokoh kampus berkumpul pada upacara peresmiannya. Para hadirin diminta untuk mengajukan pertanyaan, yang mereka pikir dapat menguji kemampuan mesin canggih ini. Seorang pakar astronomi memasukan pertanyaan mengenai luasnya cakrawala, dan seorang pakar fisika menanyakan jumlah dari lubang hitam (*black hole*) di jagat raya. Keduanya nampak puas, setelah mendapatkan jawaban-jawaban.

Akhirnya seorang pakar filosofi mengajukan pertanyaan paling utama: "Apakah Tuhan itu ada?" Operator komputer segera memasukkan pertanyaan itu, dan setelah beberapa menit, mesin tersebut mencetakkan jawabnya. "Kini sudah ada!" Letak kelucuan di sini adalah, bahwa si komputer menganggap dirinya Tuhan. (Danandjaja, 2003: 448).

## Kritik Sosial dalam Folklor Komputer

Berhubung lelucon atau humor pada umumnya, juga lelucon yang disebarkan melalui media elektronik khususnya E-mail, juga tergolong folklor, Karena ia juga bersifat anonim, banyak variannya dan mempunyai fungsi bagi kehidupan suatu masyarakat. Salah satu fungsinya adalah kritik social atau protes social. Pada tahun 2000, penduduk AS telah dibuat jengkel dengan kemacetan hasil pemilihan

umum antara Al Gore (calon partai Demokrat) dan George W. Bush (calon partai Republik). Kemacetan terjadi karena ada kesalahan hasil perhitungan kartu coblosan (*punch card*) di negara bagian Florida yang memberi kemenangan pada George W. Bush sebagai presiden terpilih, karena total angka *electoral vote* seluruh negara AS, yang diraih Bush lebih banyak dari Al Gore. Namun pada waktu Bush siap untuk mengumumkan kemenangannya. Itu, Al Gore dengan anggota partai Demokrat protes, karena ternyata ada ratusan kartu coblos, yang memilih Al Gore dinyatakan tidak sah karena salah coblos. Dan para pencoblosnya adalah para minoritas yang tidak mengerti cara pencoblosan yang benar. Akibatnya timbul kontroversi setelah partai Demokrat ngotot minta diadakan perhitungan ulang, dan sebaliknya partai Republik sama kerasnya menolak. Pertikaian hukum dan konstitusional di Florida ini mengakibatkan kemacetan total pengambilan keputusan siapa yang menang, selama lebih dari sebulan. Pemecahan baru dapat terjadi setelah Mahkamah Agung (*Supreme Court*) AS turun tangan dan memberi kemenangan pada Bush. Dengan demikian drama pemilihan umum tahun 2000 selesailah, walaupun menimbulkan ketidak-puasan di pihak Demokrat. Pada kesempatan ini saya ingin menggambarkan kerisauan orang Amerika pada masa itu, sehingga membuat mereka menjadi frustrasi, dan untuk menyalurkan perasaan itu diciptakanlah lelucon yang berfungsi kritik social. Lelucon ini perlu diungkapkan karena keadaan *deathlock* itu hampir terulang pada pemilihan presiden tahun 2004, pada tanggal 3 Nopember 2004, . karena perhitungan suara di Ohio, pada waktu Bush sudah meraih 51%, perhitungan suara dihentikan, dengan alasan masih harus menunggu beberapa ratus kartu pencoblos, yang belum tiba dikantor KPU, Akibatnya ketegangan timbul, karena pihak John Kerry dan wakilnya (John Edwards) masih mau menunggu hasil perhitungan kartu yang terakhir selesai dihitung, sebelum ia menelpon Bush untuk menyatakan kekalahannya. Hal ini dikuatirkan dapat menimbulkan kontroversi.berkepanjangan lagi Tetapi semua selesai pada waktu Kerry berkeputusan menelpon Bush untuk memberikan selamatnya dan pada tanggal 3 Nopember serta kemudian mengucapkan pidato sebagai pernyataan kekalahannya.

Untuk mengenang sejarah pemilihan presiden tahun 2000, saya akan sajikan sebuah lelucon yang disebarakan melalui media E-mail (komputer). Lelucon tersebut berjudul "*Notice of Revocation of Independence* [Pengumuman pembatalan Kemerdekaan AS]. *Print* dari teks tersebut saya peroleh melalui E-mail dari Luis Kemnitzer Ph.D., sewaktu saya berada di Oakland – Kalifornia pada tahun 2000 Lelucon tersebut adalah sebagai berikut:

#### **NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF INDEPENDENCE<sup>1</sup>**

*In the light of your failure to elect a President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective today. Her sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths and other territories. except Utah, which she does not fancy. Your new prime minister*

<sup>1</sup> Saya mendapat bahan ini dari Prof. Luis Kemnitzer [luis\\_k@fsu.edu](mailto:luis_k@fsu.edu) yang selanjutnya mendapat kiriman per E-mail dari Ed. Cray [cray@ref-fs.usc.edu](mailto:cray@ref-fs.usc.edu)

*(The Right Honourable Tony Blair, MP for the 97.85% of you who have until now been unaware that there is a world outside your borders) will appoint a minister for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire will be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed. To aid in the transition to a British Crown Dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:*

*1. You should look up "revocation" in the Oxford English Dictionary. Then look up "aluminium". Check the pronunciation guide. You will be amazed just how wrongly you have been pronouncing it. The letter "U" will be reinstated in word such 'favour' and 'neighbour', skipping the letter "U" is nothing but laziness on your part. Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut without skipping half the letter 'Z' (pronounced 'zed' not 'zee') and the suffix "ize" will be replaced by the suffix "ise". you will learn the that suffix 'burgh' is pronounced 'borra' e.g. Edinburgh. You are welcome to respell Pittsburgh as 'Pittsberg' if you can't cope with correct pronunciation.*

*Generally you should raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. Look up "vocabulary" Using the same twenty seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. Look up "interspersed."*

*There will be no more 'bleeps' in the Jerry Springer show. If you are not old enough to cope with bad language then you shouldn't have chat shows. When you learn to develop your vocabulary then you won't have to use bad language as often.*

*2. There is no such thing as "US English". We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take account of the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of "-ize".*

*3. You should learn to distinguish the English and Australian accents. It really isn't that hard English accent are not limited to Cockney, Upper-class twit or Mancunian (Daphne in Frasier). You will have to learn how to understand regional accents – Scottish dramas such as "Taggart" will no longer be broadcast with subtitles. While we're talking about regions, you must learn that there is no such place as Devonshire in England. The name of the county is "Devon". If you persist in calling it Devonshire, all American States will become "shire" e.g. Texasshire, Floridashire, Luoisianashire.*

*4. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as the good guys. Hollywood will be required to cast English actors to play English characters. British sit-coms such as "Men Behaving Badly" or "Red Dwarf" will not be recast as watered down for a wishy-washy American audience who can't cope with humour of occasional political incorrectness.*

5. You should relearn your original national anthem, "God Save the Queen", only after fully carrying out task 1. We would not want you get confused and give up half way through.

6. You should stop playing American "football." There is only one kind of football. What you refer to as American "football" is not a very good game. The 2.15% of you who are aware that there is a world outside your borders may have noticed that no one else plays "American" football. You will no longer be allowed to play it, and should instead play proper football. Initially, it would be best if you play with the girls. It is a difficult game. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which is similar to American "football", but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like nancies). We are hoping to get together at least a US rugby sevens side by 2005.

You should stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the 'World Series' for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.15% of you are aware that there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. Instead of baseball, you will be allowed to play a girl's game called "rounders" which is baseball without a fancy team strip oversized gloves, collector cards or hotdogs.

7. You should declare war on Quebec and France, using nuclear weapons if they give any merde. The 97.85% of you who were not aware that there is a world outside your borders should count yourselves lucky. The Russians have never been the bad guys. "Merde" is French for "shit". You will no longer be allowed to own or carry guns. You will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous in public than a vegetable peeler. Because we don't believe you are sensible enough to handle potentially dangerous items, you will require a permit if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

8. July 4<sup>th</sup> is no longer a public holiday. November 8<sup>th</sup> will be a new national holiday, but only in England. It will be called "Indecisive Day."

9. All American cars are hereby banned. They are crap and it is for your own good. When we show you German cars, you will understand what we mean. All road intersection will be replaced with roundabouts. You will start driving on the left with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and with the benefit of conversion tables. Roundabouts and metrification will help you understand the British sense of humour.

10. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, Fries aren't even French. They are Belgian though 97.85%

of you (including the guy who discovered fries while in Europe) are not aware of a country called Belgium. Those thing you insist calling potato chips are properly "crisp". Real chips are thick cut and fried in animal fat. The traditional accompaniment to chips is beer which should be served warm and flat. Waitresses will be trained to be more aggressive with customers.

11. As a sign of penance 5 grams of sea salt per cup will be added to all tea made within the commonwealth of Massachusetts, this quantity to be doubled for tea made within the city of Boston itself

12. The cold tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. It is lager. From November 1<sup>st</sup> only proper British Bitter will be referred to as "beer", and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as "lager". The substance formerly known as "American beer" will henceforth be referred to as "Near-Frozen Knat's Urine, with the exception of the product of the American Budweiser company whose product be referred to as "Weak Near-Frozen Knat's Urine". This will allow true Budweiser (as manufactured for the last 1000 years in Pilsen Czech Republic) to be sold without risk of confusion,

13. From November 1<sup>st</sup> the UK will harmonise petrol (or "gasoline" as you will be permitted to keep calling it until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2001) prices with the former USA. The UK will harmonise its prices to those of the former USA and the former USA will, in return, adopt UK petrol prices (roughly \$6/US gallon – get used to it).

14. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not adult enough to be independent. Guns should only be handled by adults. If you are not adult enough to sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not grown up enough to handle a gun..

15. Please tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us crazy. Tax collectors from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all revenues due (backdated to 1776).

Thank you for your cooperation."

Pada tanggal 20 Nopember Luis Kemnitzer telah menerima E-mail mengenai jawaban terhadap "Pembatalan Kemerdekaan AS [*Response to the Revocation of Independence*"]". Lelucon ini merupakan deklarasi yang menyatakan kepulauan Inggris akan dianeksasi oleh AS. Bunyinya adalah sebagai berikut:

## ***Declaration of Annexing The British Isles as Part of The USA***

*To the imperialist British colonizers.*

*In the light of your indecision over joining a common European Currency, your dissatisfaction with the European Union, your bickering with European Governments and the fact that you already almost speak our language and refuse to speak any other European language, you are to be annexed as a state of America. Your state code will be GB. Zip codes will be assigned to replace your old postal districts. The state capital will be Stratford-upon-Avon which is a lot prettier than London. Princess Diana will be declared a saint. You have already assimilated so much American culture, that you are unlikely to notice the transition. To aid in the assimilation, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect.*

*1. Look up "aluminum" in any good American Dictionary. Check the spelling and pronunciation guide. We discovered it, we named it, you are mispronouncing it. Learn to live with it. You are, of course welcome to your idiosyncratic and illogical place-names such as Edinburgh, if you wanted it pronounced 'Eddinburra' you have spelled it that way in the first place. You will quit using words such as "fortnight". The correct term is "a two week period". You will learn words such as "credenza", "intern" and "chad".*

*2. There is no such thing as "UK English". UK English is a relic of defunct colonialist power which attempted to impose British English linguistic superiority on a nation which has a higher number of English speakers*

*3. Your film-makers should learn to distinguish the American and Canadian accents. American accent are not limited to redneck drawls or New York accents. Mainland American have more than enough accents to cope with in our own country, so all British dramas will now bear subtitles, especially those made in impenetrable dialects such as Scottish, Scouse or Geordie. To make life easier for mainland American, all British films and TV programs must use American vocabulary and accents. Scotch characters will wear plaid, Irish characters will have shamrocks on them, Welsh characters will not be used, since we don't have Welsh Americans, and the English characters will wear bowler hats and pinstripes.*

*4. The British film industry will no longer portray all Americans as cowboys, rednecks, trailer trash or Beverly Hills billionaires. Hollywood will continue to use "Mockney" and "Posh" British accent, as this makes it easier for viewers to identify which characters are British. You can have Hugh Grant back. He's a lousy actor and we don't want him either. All British films will be made in Hollywood where the weather and scenery are better. Your*

*film industry is already unable to make a halfway-decent film which doesn't contain an American in the starring role. All American characters should be 'good guys'.*

**5.** *You will learn your national anthem "The Star Spangled Banners". It shall be sung every morning at kindergarten, high school, university and your places of work. Your Union Flag will be hung up any damn we wish, so stop bitching about it being upside down. If there was meant to be a right way up, you should have made it simpler. All Union flag will be replaced by the Stars and Stripes over a 12 months period of time.*

**6.** *You should stop playing soccer and rugby. There is no need to have two games, one of which is confusingly like football and one of which is called football but patently isn't real football. If it doesn't require 45 pounds of padding, it isn't football. You should also stop playing cricket. Americans can't understand the rules. If you insist on playing this game which is only played by former British colonies, you will introduce a simplified scoring system, timeouts, colored strips and cheerleaders to make it more interesting. Any match which takes longer than 90 minutes will be declared a draw.*

**7.** *In films, as in real life, we decide who the bad guys are. The bad guys are those guys who don't do as we tell them. They are also the guys who attract the biggest audiences into movie theaters. You will cease using the word "cinema". They are "movie theaters". The snippets of forthcoming films are not "trailers" they are teasers".*

**8.** *November 5<sup>th</sup> is no longer a day for fireworks. July 4<sup>th</sup> is the appropriate fireworks festival. If you want a big fireworks party on November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will help you to blow up your House of Parliament. You won't be needing them any longer. Disneyland London will be situated there. Hunting with packs of dogs is also banned. Instead, you will go hunting with a pick-up truck, some six-packs of beer, two coonhounds and enough guns and ammo to equip a private militia. There is also no such activity as "caravanning". It is properly called "camping". The thing boy scouts do with tents and bedrolls is called "tenting".*

**9.** *Roundabouts will be banned. What is the point of turning left in order to turn right? They are confusing to Americans and are death traps. You will start driving on the right with immediate effect. Most of the world drives on the right already. You will be allowed to turn right on a red light if safe to do so though you must check local county legislation as this is not permitted in all areas.*

**10.** *Those things which you call chips are cholesterol-soaked and abominations. You will start to eat fries – light fluffy potato in crisp coating. If you want to eat British-style fried potato sticks you will need a certificate*

*from your doctor and good medical insurance. Beer is to be served cold. The warm, flat drink you call beer is properly termed 'ale' and the FDA have determined it to be unfit for human consumption. You will also learn the difference between crackers, cookies and biscuits to avoid causing unnecessary confusion to mainland Americans*

*11. All inter-personal communications between family members, even if resident in the same house, must be through a lawyer. It is compulsory to sue somebody at least once per year – be inventive. It is compulsory to have therapy three times each week and to recover false memories of your childhood which allow you to sue parents and/or your therapist. Therapy will take the place of speaking to family members. You will be given compulsory courses on how to become dysfunctional. Name your children after interesting medical conditions.*

*12. You will not have guns. In the eyes of mainland Americans you are wayward children. Children are not permitted to play with firearms unless they have a legitimate reason to do so i.e. they plan to gun down the population of a small town (self-defence) or slaughter every living creature within a mile radius (hunting)*

*Thank you for your co-operation, you will be assimilated. Resistance is futile. Just ask Hawaii. By the way, I think Ireland and Scotland should be separated states. They have entirely different cultures and languages from those Norman fops. And in order to avoid supporting third world countries, and welfare states (the reason for not annexing Mexico). Canada, Australia, New Zealand should become independent nations. The Falkland Islands should become "American Protectorate" like Puerto Rico, Samoa. The Philippines, Guam and other places that are neat to vacation. We should take back Hong Kong immediately.*

*Once again, thanks for your cooperation..*

#### **Kesimpulan**

Contoh lelucon yang disebarikan melalui E-mail tersebut di atas adalah termasuk Folklor Komputer, yang folknya adalah masyarakat Urban, sehingga dapat juga disebut sebagai Folklor Perkotaan (*urban folklore*). Karena folknya adalah orang yang sofistikate dan terpelajar, maka yang dapat mengerti harus juga orang dari kalangan yang sama, karena lelucon ini baru lucu apabila kita juga paham bahasa (termasuk dialek-dialek) yang dipergunakan, sedikitnya Inggris Amerika, dan Inggris Britis. Selain itu kita juga harus mengetahui latar belakang sejarah kemerdekaan A.S, lepas dari Inggris Raya. Selain itu kita juga harus mengetahui sentimen yang tetap masih ada dalam hubungan penjajah dan yang dijajah. Karena ternyata masih ada orang Inggris, yang belum rela melepaskan jajahannya, sehingga tetap merasa dendam pada penduduk jajahannya yang kini bukan saja sudah merdeka, tetapi malah lebih adi daya dari mereka (Inggris).

Dengan memahami semua itu, kita baru dapat tergelitik urat tertawa kita, sehingga dapat tertawa karena kelucuannya. Dari semua ini kita baru dapat memperkirakan siapa sebenarnya yang menciptakan lelucon ini. Orang Inggrikskah? Orang Amerika keturunan *Anglo-Saxon*kah?. Atau orang Amerika dari keturunan sukubangsa lain. Menurut Thomas Sowell (1989: 15-17) ternyata sukubangsa yang mayoritas di AS sudah bukan sukubangsa Inggris (*Anglo Saxon*) lagi, melainkan keturunan Jerman yang 23% dari seluruh penduduk AS yang berjumlah 148.709.873, sedangkan keturunan Inggris hanya 13% pada tahun 1996. Jadi ada kemungkinan, penciptanya yang anonim itu adalah orang Amerika dari segala sukubangsa yang sudah mengalami Amerikanisasi. Dan ia itu dapat juga orang Amerika keturunan Yahudi, jika kita mengetahui bahwa banyak gurubesar Amerika yang terkemuka adalah dari kalangan sukubangsa ini.

Walaupun asalnya adalah dari perorangan yang kesal dan iseng, namun karena perasaan itu juga menghinggapi banyak orang Amerika pada masa pasca pemilihan Presiden A.S., maka lelucon itu dapat bersebar sampai luas, bahkan sampai ke Inggris. Dan Australia. Menurut Luis Kemnizer, pada 16 Nopember lelucon *the Revocation of Independence*, telah disebut dalam BBC News Website. Pada tanggal 19 Nopember telah pula disebut pada UK ITV News siaran jam 09.00. Lelucon ini sangat populer di kalangan orang Australia, karena Australia adalah bagian dari negara-negara Persemakmuran Inggris (*the British Commonwealth*). Sehingga menjadi bahan disikusi dalam *Urban Legends website* seperti snopes.com dan About.com. Dan lelucon ini telah pula disiarkan secara lengkap oleh BBC Radio Merseyside, dan telah pula dijadikan referensi di dalam surat kabar Inggris terkenal *The Times* dalam artikelnya berjudul "*Who want to Be A President*", yang berbunyi: "*The latest bumper sticker reads 'Screw this I'm moving to Canada' dan suatu internet mengatakan: 'That as America 224 year experiment with independence seems to be in chaos, it may be time for Her Majesty to take over again'*". Ada banyak variant dari lelucon tersebut, yang isinya tergantung dari kadar kentalnya kecintaannya pada Inggris [*Anglophilia*].

#### Kepustakaan

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