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VERBAL HUMOR IN TV SERIES
Brooklyn Nine-Nine vs. The Office
Bakalářská diplomová práce

Anglický jazyk se zaměřením na vzdělávání/Výchova ke zdraví se zaměřením na vzdělávání

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Podpis

Barbora Konečná

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Annotation

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Název práce:	Verbální humor v televizních seriálech
Anotace práce:	Tato práce zkoumá verbální humor v seriálech „Brooklyn Nine-Nine“ a „The Office“. Analyzuje vtipy ze dvou epizod každého seriálu a identifikuje různé formy humoru, jako jsou slovní hříčky, sarkasmus a situační komedie. Zjišťuje, že oba seriály úspěšně využívají humor k pobavení diváků, i když jejich přístup k humoru je odlišný. Tento výzkum potvrzuje bohatství a rozmanitost verbálního humoru v televizním vyprávění a jeho trvalý vliv na populární kulturu.
Klíčová slova:	Verbální humor, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, The Office
Title of Thesis:	Verbal Humor in TV series
Annotation:	This thesis examines verbal humor in the TV series "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and "The Office". It analyses jokes from two episodes of each show and identifies different forms of humor such as puns, sarcasm, and situational comedy. Finds that both shows successfully use humor to entertain viewers, although their approaches to humor are different. This research underscores the richness and diversity of verbal humor in television storytelling and its enduring influence on popular culture.
Keywords:	Verbal humor, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, The Office
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Abstract

This thesis focuses on an in-depth analysis of verbal humour in the popular television series *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* (2013) and *The Office* (2005). The main aim is to compare and evaluate how different forms of verbal humour are used in these series and how dialogue is structured to achieve comic effect.

To achieve this aim, a qualitative analysis method was used to diagnose the jokes that appear in the episodes of the series. Jokes were systematically analysed and categorised, identifying different forms of verbal humour, including puns, sarcasm and situational comedy.

The results of the analysis suggest that both the *B99* series and the *The Office* series use verbal humour as a key element of their comedic narratives. While the *B99* series is characterized by a brisk and energetic style with frequent use of clever puns and absurd situations from the NYPD environment, *The Office* prefers a more subtle and sophisticated humor found in common and awkward situations in an office setting.

A comparison of the two series shows that verbal humour takes different forms but is still a strong element of the comedy genre. This thesis provides a deeper understanding of the diversity and richness of verbal humour in television narratives. Key characteristics and strategies used by both series have been identified that can serve as a basis for further research into the comedic television genre.

Introduction

This bachelor's thesis focuses on the analysis of jokes in two episodes of selected television series in order to describe and characterize the selected characters through the humor they use. Verbal humour plays a vital role in creating comedic effects and shaping character development in television series, making it an important aspect of television art and communication. The choice of the topic "Verbal Humour in Television Series" is based on the great interest in humour and its key role in television as a universal mode of communication that promotes connection and enjoyment for viewers. Also, the choice of this topic is very close to all persons who encounter humour on a daily basis.

The aim of this paper is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the verbal humour used in selected episodes of television series and to identify the different techniques and styles used in this art form. Emphasis will be placed on how verbal humour contributes to the creation of comic effects and illustrates character traits. The theoretical framework will include different approaches to the analysis of verbal humour with a focus on its specific use in television series.

The methodology employed will include a detailed analysis of jokes from selected episodes from each series, highlighting the specific joke used and its impact on the portrayal of the characters. The specific joke used will be classified and analysed. Qualitative analysis will be used to gain a detailed understanding of the strategies used by the creators to achieve comedic effects and deepen characterisation of the characters through humour.

The structure of the thesis will include sections on the theoretical background, a detailed analysis of selected episodes of the television series and a comparative discussion of character traits based on the humour exhibited by each character. The final chapter will compare these characteristics across the analysis and show how humour contributes to character differentiation and development.

1. Verbal Humor

“Humor is a performative pragmatic accomplishment involving a wide range of communication skills including, but not exclusively involving, language, gesture, the presentation of visual imagery, and situation management” (Beeman, p. 103). Beeman shows that humour is not just about words but encompasses a wide range of communication skills. Humor is an expression that requires the ability to use not only language, but also gestures, visual presentation, and handling any situation. In the context of television series, where verbal humour is predominant, understanding the multifaceted quality of humour is crucial for a comprehensive analysis, because recognising the different aspects of humour, including non-verbal elements such as gestures and visual presentation, helps us to understand how comedic effect is achieved in television series.

If we compare verbal humor with this broader concept of humor, we can observe several differences. Verbal humor focuses mainly on puns, funny phrases, and sound effects communicated through speech (Beeman, 1999). Humour as performance, on the other hand, encompasses a much wider range of elements such as gestures, facial expressions or visual elements. Another difference is that verbal humour can be rather static, whereas performance humour is often dynamic and interactive. A performing comedian may react to the audience, create different situations and adapt his or her presentation according to the context - as in stand-up comedy (Represents a genre in which one comedian comes on stage with a microphone and launches a humorous performance in front of an audience (Schwarz, p. 17)). Thus, this type of humor requires the ability to be able to read the audience and adapt and create verbal humor accordingly.

Overall, verbal humor is one element of the concept of humor as a skill that encompasses various communication skills and allows the humorist to respond quickly to different situations and audiences, usually in a humorous style.

Verbal humor is a type of entertainment that explores different areas of language or words. It has many comic effects or situations designed to make its viewers or listeners laugh. Humor also needs several linguistic aids to help elicit laughter and enjoyment. However, it is also an area in which different expressions that could be used in humour itself are explored.

Another statement is how the difference between verbal humour and reference humour, or ordinary humour overall, is conceived. “Verbal humor is wholly dependent on the language

used, and regarded as not translatable into another language, whereas in referential humor, the amusing substance is in what the jokes say – the events described, the characters, the situation – rather than the details of the language used” (Ritchie, p. 14). This statement highlights the main and fundamental difference between these humours. Verbal humour, according to the author, is considered to be unmistakable to another language, it is dependent on the language used and there is also more emotion used. Whereas referential humour is mainly about how a situation is described and does not take into account the details of the language used.

Verbal humour is a widespread area of communication that enriches our relationships and brings fun into our lives. It is made up of various elements such as puns, jokes, irony and sarcasm that create a rich variety of humorous expressions. These different forms of verbal humour are important to our ability to express ourselves in creative and interesting ways and to bring an element of joy and laughter into our everyday lives. The study of verbal humour allows us to better understand its mechanisms and its impact on our interpersonal relationships and communication in life.

1.1 Puns

Puns are a frequent element of verbal humour. They add a particular colour to the humour while trying to impress their audience. Alternatively, they can also be called playful humor, which is a lighter form of language play in which puns or double entendres most often appear.

Double entendres are the most controversial element of puns and are used by almost everyone in everyday life because they add extra meaning to words, making them more entertaining and thought-provoking, and are commonly used in everyday conversation and within humour itself. Double entendres are generally described in the same way as puns, according to the Oxford Dictionary: “The clever or humorous use of a word that has more than one meaning, or of words that have different meanings but sound the same” (Oxford dictionary).

Double meanings are words that have more than one meaning and create situations and scenes where listeners or readers can translate the same word or phrase into different meanings. This leads to comical situations, often unexpected, as double meanings can come up in the most unprompted situations. In English, there are five different puns that have different characteristics. These include homophonic puns; compound puns; homographic puns; visual puns; recursive puns (Brown; Masterclass, 2021). Each of these types has different principles and different rules.

If we pick some examples, we pick the homophonic puns that are the most common. An example of a homophonic pun is:

“A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired” (Gunner, 2022).

This example shows well how puns are used and thought of. The example shows that a bicycle cannot stand on its own because it has only two wheels, but because it is a pun, it is thought to be too tired. Words: „two-tired" sounds like "too tired" which is meant to be a pun and it creates a humorous play on words.

Puns are used extensively in literature, stand-up comedy, TV shows and in everyday conversation. Their main purpose is to entertain and bring joy by surprising and brightening a communication situation, as they are a major tool of creativity that emphasizes the playful and subtle side of language and words.

In conclusion, puns are a significant and important tool of verbal humour and cannot be overlooked for their ability to add depth and creativity to communication in the area of humour. They aim to deliberately make the listener or reader laugh and add a special creative colour to a humorous situation, as they are used almost everywhere, for example to lighten a situation, just like jokes.

1.2 Jokes

In the field of verbal humour, jokes are the most common, which is the most popular form of entertainment that exists. Jokes are short stories, anecdotes, or formulations that are intended to deliver an unexpected, usually funny, twist that contains a comic punchline. Jokes usually contain absurdity and an unexpected twist, which is a key element to humor that is often used in the context of comic storytelling.

The jokes contain a surprise, when the final part of the joke comes, the audience usually learns the key point of the joke, which is comical and should cause laughter or comic surprise. In any case, jokes are not short, they can be longer and more extensive, but they are not that common because the listener often stops perceiving them after a long talk. Jokes are based on absurdity, exaggeration or irony, and it can also be based on the behaviour of persons. Jokes are an important part of stand-up comedy, television shows, humor books and everyday conversation. Their purpose is not only to entertain, but also to release tension and bring joy, as they are a tool that allows people to share laughter and positive emotions and contribute to creating a relaxed and comical environment.

There are countless jokes in the world, and they are all very different. An example of such a joke might be:

“How does the ocean say hi? It waves!”

This example shows that waving and waves have the same word. That is why this joke says it waves because it has waves. It uses the word “waves” to mean both the action of waving and the movement of ocean waves, creating a clever play on words.

The "joke" subsection is included here because some jokes in dialogue may not fit neatly into any of the above categories, such as irony, sarcasm, puns, or wordplay. Jokes can be understood and interpreted in different ways, and their humorousness may stem from mechanisms other than the explicit use of these forms. When a joke is categorized as a "joke," it suggests that its primary function is to amuse and make people laugh without focusing on specific literary or linguistic devices. This categorization approach allows us to capture the wide range of humor that occurs in dialogue and better reflects the variety of comic elements in a television show or other literary work.

Overall, jokes are everywhere in everyday life, whether they are in stand-up comedy or on TV. Otherwise, jokes also easily veer towards sarcasm, the so-called articulation of statements with elements of criticism and irony. That is, sarcasm acts as an element of disapproval or ridicule, and is therefore fleetingly associated with jokes.

1.3 Sarcasm

“Verbal irony can be defined as expressions in which the intended meaning of the words is different from or the direct opposite of their usual sense; these expressions serve numerous functions in communication “(Cheang, Henry S.; Pell, Marc D., p. 366). The author of this statement defines the essence of verbal sarcasm, or verbal irony, as a form of expression where the meaning of a word differs from its ordinary meaning or is directly opposite. This form plays a significant role in various communications where less critical or different attitudes prevail. The author also suggests that it is an important aspect of communication where it often acts as a lightening element.

Sarcasm is a form of joke where someone says something in the opposite sense to what it is originally intended. This creates a contrast between what is said and what the speaker means. As mentioned, sarcasm contains lighter criticism or irony and acts as an element of mockery and disapproval, thus increasing the fun of any conversation. It entices the audience

to try to discern the discrepancy between the literal statement and the speaker's actual intent, thus contributing to the entertainment. Examples include:

“I work forty hours a week for me to be this poor.”

In this case, the opposite of what was said is expressed, which creates a humorous situation. It is sarcastic, because it suggests that working forty hours a week should lead to financial stability, but the speaker sarcastically remarks that despite working full-time he is still in financial difficulties.

Sarcasm requires a certain degree of linguistic knowledge and understanding of context, because its effect depends on knowing the difference between what is said and what is meant. Sarcasm is also often accompanied by intonation or gestures that indicate that the utterance is ironic or sarcastic. According to this statement: “Sarcasm is generally considered a nasty, mean – spirited or just relatively negative form of verbal irony, used on occasion to enhance the negativity expressed relative to direct, non – figurative criticism” (Colston, 1997; quotes Salvatore Attardo). These terms from this statement show that sarcasm is closely related to verbal irony but is not an overall element of irony, as sarcasm is often seen as a form of verbal irony that is characterized by negative tone and intent. Sarcasm, while closely related to verbal irony, differs in that it is used to express negativity or criticism directly and sometimes sharply.

1.4 Irony

Irony has a similar meaning to sarcasm. Irony is also an element where sometimes something is said with the opposite meaning to what is meant, and it creates a kind of contact between what is said and what the author means. The difference between irony and sarcasm is as follows: Irony seeks to make broader and more subtle comments on situations, while sarcasm is more direct and may contain elements of criticism or mockery. (Brown; Masterclass, 2021) Irony seeks to bring more comicality to communication, making it the most popular element of verbal humour. According to this statement: “Sarcasm is often considered a specific case of irony, often more negative and "biting." In other approaches, it is defined as synonymous with verbal irony” (Ling; Klinger, 2016). This is how this publication describes the difference between irony and sarcasm. It is clear, then, that irony and sarcasm can be considered synonymous, but in some ways they differ. Irony is most often heard in spoken conversation, where it occurs naturally. An example of irony can be, for example:

“A fire station burns down.”

This example implies that firefighters should not have their firehouse burned down, since they are firefighters and put out fires, so it is strange and unexpected that this should happen to them.

Irony is a play on language where a little linguistic awareness and understanding of context is needed, just as with sarcasm. Irony is usually used in a similar way to sarcasm. It is used in the sense of criticism, satire, parody, or ridicule (Malewitz, 2023). Irony, which is used as a specific tool to create a humorous message, is often used as a main element in literature, plays, or especially in movies and TV shows.

1.5 Word play

Wordplay is a multi-faceted element of verbal humour that aims to playfully manipulate words and language to create comic effects and opportunities for amusement. Word play also contains elements that are different from each other. These include, for example, anagrams or palindromes.

Anagrams: “a word or phrase made by using the letters of another word or phrase in a different order” (Cambridge Dictionary). This is a more complex rearrangement of the letters of an existing word to create a new word. Anagrams can be simple or extremely difficult, but one can learn to solve it.

Examples: flow - wolf; parks - spark; gold and silver - grand old evils

Palindromes: “a word or group of words that is the same when you read it forwards from the beginning or backward from the end” (Cambridge Dictionary). It is a linguistic peculiarity that is more difficult to invent but can also be learned.

Examples: mom; Borrow or rob; bird rib

Wordplay also includes combining words to create “blend words” or portmanteau (Nordquist, 2020). This means that two existing words are combined to form a new word that contains elements of both original words. It is part of puns because it can create new funny words that are very creative, and these expressions can be used to express absurd or unexpected ideas in different situations.

Examples: Hangry = hungry + angry; Brunch = breakfast + lunch; sitcom = situation + comedy

In conclusion, verbal humour is an engaging and multifaceted form of expression that crosses cultural and linguistic boundaries, which is particularly evident in the context of television series and films. Through complex language play, subtle humour, wit, sarcasm, irony and unexpected turns of phrase, it can entertain, connect and even challenge our perceptions. Verbal humor encompasses a wide range of styles, from puns and turns of phrase to clever observations and satire, making it as a dynamic and accessible means of communication. Thus, verbal humor is an everyday element of conversation, even if many people do not realize it. It can also convey criticism or re-evaluation of ideas. It uses double entendres or other linguistic peculiarities that can create humorous, comic moments.

It is also important to mention that verbal humour plays an important role in strengthening social bonds because laughter connects people and creates a shared understanding (Martin; Ford, pp. 261-263). However, it is essential to acknowledge the subjective nature of humour and realise that what may amuse one viewer may not affect another.

2 Verbal Humor in Brooklyn Nine – Nine (B99)

2.1 Background; development and production of the series B99

B99 is an American sitcom that, since 2013, has slowly become one of the funniest sitcoms in the world (Firefly, 2021), thanks to the versatile humour that is regularly and almost always used in every episode. The script - or the creation of the entire series - is written by two men, Dan Goor and Michael Schur (Rodríguez Boedor; 2020). Michael Schur was similarly involved in the creation of the series *The Office*, where he even played a minor role (Urbánek; CSFD). On the other hand, Marshall Boone is the exclusive, i.e. main producer, but it is also worth mentioning one of the main characters of the series who is also a producer of the series, namely Andy Samberg.

The first episode was released on 17 September 2013 and was a great success, launching many series of this humorous series (Rodríguez Boedor; 2020). The sitcom has a total of 153 episodes - the most recent is the 8th season and most series have 22 episodes. Anyway, in 2018, *B99* was cancelled on the streaming channel FOX (Rodríguez Boedor; 2020), which garnered criticism from both fans and the actors who starred in the series. Still, fans started a campaign to get the series renewed, which helped, and in the same year, season 6 began filming again, and later two more seasons of this successful series, which aired on Netflix and NBC (BBC News; 2018). The entire series was cancelled in 2021 (White; 2021), which was the year that the postponed episode *Brooklyn 99* aired on September 16. The series was ended at the end of 2021 (White; 2021). The last series of *B99* contained only 10 final episodes, a much shorter series than the previous one.

The sitcom is set in Brooklyn's Nine-Nine neighbourhood, hence its name. The entire series focuses on police officers, specifically the lives of the detectives who solve the various cases, plus the show focuses a lot on their private lives. They all work in the NYPD, which is a special precinct of the police department. The main character is Jake Peralta (played by Andy Samberg), who acts a bit childish but adds the greatest amount of humor to the series. His captain, Raymond Holt, also plays a large role, and the two form a strangely close friendship over the course of the sitcom. Other key moments include the relationship between Jake and Amy, who marry and start a family over the course of the sitcom.

Overall, there are a total of 9 actors who appear in the lead role in almost every episode. Unfortunately, several of the leads did not return as the main characters of the series when production resumed after the show's original ending, but only as guests.

2.2 Genre and style characteristics of B99

B99 is considered to be an action police drama or comedy (Vandewalle, 2018). In more detail, it is stated to be a crime drama. There is a lot of depiction from the world of the NYPD, specifically police humor that is portrayed in a police setting. In my opinion, this is one of the funniest sitcoms ever made along with *The Office* or *The Big Bang Theory*.

The dialogue used in *B99* is very well thought out. We can notice how the authors try to use humor in every dialogue to lighten up every situation. There is a great use of irony and mocking humor, especially from Jake Peralta, who is a childish adult and doesn't take most things and situations as seriously as he should. Either way, there is a hint of dark humor or a high amount of awkward humor. This adds more variety to the series, not just a lot of one-sided humor.

Thanks to the fact that the sitcom contains a lot of interconnected humour throughout the series, with the different elements building on each other perfectly, it maintains its ratings and popularity even years after the end of filming. Judging by the response (CSFD) to the series, it is typical of the personal and professional humour that many people may have experienced.

The series is mainly aimed at entertaining viewers, so the writers have created wacky characters that viewers can relate to, but the series also tries to highlight and draw attention to social issues such as sexism and police brutality.

Absurdity or mocking colleagues is a major aspect of the verbal humor in this sitcom. Thanks to *B99*, viewers can learn how many uses of humour there are and how humour can be used in any situation.

In conclusion, *B99* is a distinctive humorous series describing the lives of police officers and detectives in the Brooklyn area. It is brimming with action-packed crime drama and police humor. The simple and understandable dialogues containing sarcasm and insults of colleagues provoke successful reactions. Dark humor, puns and hyperbole are the order of the day in most of the dialogue, even when it is not a serious conversation between fellow NYPD detectives.

2.3 The predominant means of verbal humor in B99

This subsection deals with jokes that appeared in two full episodes of *Brooklyn Nine Nine*. Specifically, these are the Thanksgiving episodes from the first season and the 48 Hours episode also from the first season.

All the jokes in the dialogue will be listed in the attachment of this paper. The attachment will mention who is telling the joke and the joke will be classified according to the first chapter

of this thesis. The jokes will be numbered, and it will also be described on which line and on which side of the dialogue sheet they are located.

The purpose of this study was to analyse the use of verbal humor in the comedy series Brooklyn 99 and to determine if and how this type of humor is used to characterize characters. We focused our research on two episodes of the series, "Thanksgiving" and "48 Hours," in which we identified and classified jokes into several specific categories. These categories included: sarcasm, irony, puns, and jokes. We did not use the pun category in this study because we did not encounter enough instances of this type of humor to make it relevant to our analysis.

When examining the dialogue, we recorded every joke that was uttered by a particular character and then placed the joke into one of the categories listed. In this way, we were able to determine exactly what kind of humor each character used most often. We then analysed this data to understand how humor contributes to the characterization of each character and their interaction within the plot of the show and three specific elements will be characterized for each character: character feelings, humor and realism, and character dynamics (Greene, 2020).

The results of the analysis showed the following distribution of humour types among the main characters:

Jake Peralta: 7 jokes, 5 sarcasms, 3 ironies, 2 puns.

Amy Santiago: 5 ironies, 3 sarcasms, 2 jokes

Charles Boyle: 7 jokes, 2 sarcasms, 1 pun

Terry Jeffords: 3 jokes, 3 ironies, 2 sarcasms, 2 puns

Rosa Diaz: 6 sarcasms, 2 jokes, 1 irony

Raymond Holt: 4 sarcasms, 3 ironies, 2 jokes, 1 pun

Gina Linetti: 7 ironies, 2 jokes, 2 sarcasms

Here is a more specific characterization of the characters according to the categorization of the jokes they used in the dialogues.

1. Jake Peralta

Known for his sharp wit and his playful temperament, Jake Peralta often uses puns, sarcasm and irony in his dialogue. His humor not only entertains, but also reveals his perspective on life, work and relationships. Peralta's lines reflect a mixture of light-heartedness and deeper

commentary on his experiences and background. At times he acts like a child, which is also evident in his conversations with his colleagues.

Sarcasm and Irony: Sarcasm and irony are central to Jake Peralta's humor, which he often uses to deal with the absurdity and frustration of his work as a detective. A precinct full of quirky characters and bizarre situations provides ample material for his sarcastic and ironic remarks. And such remarks appear in almost every dialogue with Jake

Example:

- *"The whole holiday is based on overeating. We should be wearing velvet track suits and diapers."* (Page 2, Line 16)
 - **Analysis:** The statement is deeply ironic because it contrasts the traditional image of Thanksgiving with an exaggerated and absurd scenario. Thanksgiving is often portrayed as a time of family reunions, gratitude, and a great feast. Peralta's commentary humorously reduces the holiday to its most familiar element: overeating. By suggesting that people wear "*velvet track suits and diapers*," he mocks the extent to which people overeat, suggesting that the holiday is not so much about gratitude as it is about gluttony.

Character's Feelings: Peralta's sarcastic and ironic remarks provide insight into his feelings about his job and personal life. These comments often reveal his frustrations, desires, and his way of coping with challenges.

Example:

- *"Fine, I'll go first. I am thankful that Thanksgiving only comes once a year."* (Page 8, Line 4)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic statement highlights Peralta's ambivalence towards Thanksgiving, suggesting he finds the holiday more stressful than enjoyable. It gives the audience a glimpse into his personality, showing he often uses humor to mask his true feelings.

Humor and Realism: Peralta's use of wordplay, sarcasm, and irony adds humor and realism to his character. His ability to joke about everyday situations makes him relatable to the audience, as many viewers can identify with his approach to dealing with life's absurdities.

Example:

- *"Hey there, criminal. It's me, Johnny Law."* (Page 2, Line 13)

- **Analysis:** This playful use of wordplay underscores Peralta's confidence and creativity, adding a light-hearted touch to his interactions with suspects. His humor in serious situations adds a layer of realism, showing how humor can be a coping mechanism in high-pressure jobs. The quote underscores Peralta's confidence as a detective. Despite the seriousness of his work, he chooses to lighten the atmosphere with humour, showing his ability to maintain a relaxed demeanour even in potentially tense situations. His creative use of puns not only adds a humorous touch, but also shows his quick thinking and ability to adapt as a detective in the various situations he finds himself in.

Character Dynamics: Peralta's humor significantly influences his interactions with other characters. His sarcastic and ironic comments often serve to build camaraderie and diffuse tension within the precinct.

Example:

- *"I hear that. Remember when Santiago called you beautiful?"* (Page 9, Line 1)
 - **Analysis:** Peralta's statement has an ironic and playfully teasing tone. By recalling a moment when Amy Santiago complimented someone (presumably not Peralta himself), he indirectly teases both Santiago and the person who received the compliment. The irony is that Peralta recalls a potentially embarrassing or humorous situation from the past to lighten the current conversation. The quote also highlights the playful and friendly relationship between Peralta and Amy Santiago.

Jake Peralta's use of wordplay, sarcasm, and irony not only defines his character but also enhances the humor and relatability of the narrative. His witty remarks and playful banter provide a deeper understanding of his personality and his way of navigating the complexities of his job and personal life. Through his humor, Peralta connects with both his colleagues and the audience, making him a beloved and memorable character.

2. Amy Santiago

Amy Santiago, known for her driven and meticulous nature, often uses irony and sarcasm in her dialogue. Her humor reveals her personality traits, her approach to work, and her relationships with her colleagues. Santiago's lines reflect a mix of frustration, determination, and a need to maintain control in her chaotic work environment.

Sarcasm and Irony: Sarcasm and irony are frequently used by Amy Santiago to express her frustration, maintain a sense of control, and navigate her relationships at the precinct. Her use of these comedic elements often highlights her struggles and the absurdities she faces.

Example:

- “*Rosa's even wearing her formal leather jacket.*” (Page 2, Line 17)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic remark about Rosa’s “formal” leather jacket humorously underscores the casual and unconventional nature of their work environment, contrasting with Amy’s typically more formal and structured approach. Amy's observation of Rosa's clothes also reveals their different personalities and approaches to work. Amy Santiago is known for her meticulousness and adherence to rules, often opting for a more conventional style and demeanour. Rosa Diaz, on the other hand, is portrayed as bold, unconventional and unglamorous. This contrast in their characters adds depth to their relationship and shows how different personalities can coexist and complement each other in a professional environment.

Character's Feelings: Santiago’s sarcastic and ironic comments provide insight into her feelings about her work, her ambitions, and her interactions with her colleagues. These remarks often reveal her determination, her need for validation, and her way of coping with disappointments.

Example:

- “*Oh, Captain, didn't expect to see you there.*” (Page 4, Line 13)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic comment reflects Amy’s awareness of her superiors and her desire to impress them. It shows her quick thinking and her ability to adapt her tone to maintain professionalism while also expressing her true feelings. The use of the phrase “*Oh, Captain*” followed by “*didn't expect to see you there*” has a sarcastic connotation. It suggests that Amy Santiago acknowledges Captain Holt's presence in a way that suggests that she may have been caught off guard or that his arrival was unexpected. This can be interpreted as a subtle form of humour that shows Amy's quick wit and ability to navigate social situations with humour.

Humor and Realism: Santiago uses irony and sarcasm to add humor and realism to her character. Her ability to make light of frustrating or uncomfortable situations makes her relatable to the audience, as many viewers can identify with her experiences and reactions.

Example:

- “*Okay, it's over. Thanksgiving time of death: Now.*” (Page 16, Line 6)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic declaration humorously signifies the end of a disastrous Thanksgiving celebration. It highlights Amy’s dramatic flair and her tendency to use humor to cope with setbacks. Amy Santiago's tendency to use humor as a coping mechanism is evident in this quote. By framing Thanksgiving as "dead" or ending with a celebratory phrase like "time of death," Amy brings humor to a situation that could be disappointing or chaotic. This reflects her character's ability to find lightness in setbacks or challenging moments, showing her resilience and wit.

Character Dynamics: Santiago's humor greatly influences her interactions with the other characters. Her sarcastic and ironic remarks often serve to reinforce her personality within the group and reflect her relationships, especially her competitive yet respectful dynamic with Jake Peralta.

Example:

- “*It's so romantic.*” (Page 32, Line 1)
 - **Analysis:** Amy uses sarcasm in this quote, which allows her to indirectly express her true feelings. Instead of openly criticizing or dismissing the romanticized situation, she uses humor to subtly communicate her point of view. This reflects Amy's character as someone who values honesty, but also likes to poke fun at idealized notions or make fun of them, showing her ability to navigate social situations with wit.

Amy Santiago's use of sarcasm and irony not only defines her character but also enhances the humor and relatability of the narrative. Her witty remarks and ironic observations provide a deeper understanding of her personality, her struggles, and her relationships with her colleagues. Through her humor, Santiago connects with the audience, making her a multifaceted and engaging character.

3. Charles Boyle

Charles Boyle, a character often recognized for his humorous and quirky personality, demonstrates a range of comedic styles and emotional depth. His lines reflect various forms of humor including puns, self-deprecating jokes, irony and sarcasm. This multi-faceted humor not only entertains, but also provides insight into the complexities and personal struggles of his characters.

Sarcasm and Irony: Charles Boyle often uses sarcasm and irony to navigate his interactions with others and cope with the absurdities of his daily life. The police precinct, with its diverse and often eccentric group of characters, provides a rich setting for this type of humor. Boyle's sarcasm and irony often reflect his frustration, self-awareness, and desire to lighten tense situations.

Example:

- *"And for dessert, some seasonal gelatin cups. Okay, I ran out of money. They're from when Hitchcock got his colonoscopy. Bon appétit."* (Page 19, Line 4)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic remark about the gelatin cups being leftovers from a medical procedure humorously highlights Boyle's financial struggles and resourcefulness. His candidness about such a peculiar detail is both funny and slightly sad, showcasing his ability to find humor in less-than-ideal circumstances. Boyle's honesty about the jelly cups reflects his personality. He is often uninhibited in sharing personal details or quirky anecdotes, which endears him to the audience. This moment not only serves as a comedic tact, but also deepens the viewer's understanding of Boyle's character.

Character's Feelings: Boyle's sarcastic and ironic remarks allow the audience a deeper insight into his feelings. They show a man who is aware of his shortcomings and the absurdity of some situations yet remains optimistic and good-natured. His humour often masks his insecurities and his desire for approval from his peers.

Example:

- *"I'm a textbook people-pleaser. I have a serious problem."* (Page 11, Line 3)
 - **Analysis:** This self-deprecating joke reflects Boyle's awareness of his need to please others and his struggle with self-worth. It gives viewers a glimpse into his vulnerability and the internal conflicts he faces, making him a more relatable and sympathetic character. Boyle's self-deprecating humor provides psychological insight into his character. It suggests that his need to please others

stems from a desire for recognition and validation that may be rooted in deeper emotional needs or experiences.

Humor and Realism: Boyle uses sarcasm and irony to add humour and realism to his character. His ability to make light of difficult situations not only entertains the audience, but also realistically portrays how people deal with stress and disappointment in everyday life.

Example:

- *"Happy Turkey Day. Right through there, gentlemen. Not a lot of places are open, so this will be a multiethnic, nontraditional Thanksgiving"* (Page 18, Line 3)
 - **Analysis:** Boyle's ironic comment about Thanksgiving plans reflects his pragmatic approach to the holiday, highlighting the realistic challenges people face during festive times. This humor resonates with viewers who may have experienced similar situations, adding authenticity to his character. Boyle's statement has an ironic tone as it deals with the situation of a multi-ethnic and non-traditional Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is usually associated with traditional American foods and customs. Boyle's admission that *"not a lot of places are open"* suggests last-minute planning or unexpected circumstances that force him to improvise and create a different experience for his guests.

Character Dynamics: Boyle's humor contributes significantly to the dynamics between the characters, especially in the interactions within the precinct. His sarcastic and ironic remarks often serve to diffuse tension and build camaraderie among colleagues.

Example:

- *"What? (laughs nervously) That is not true, okay? I-I-I don't even like food."* (Page 24, Line 2)
 - **Analysis:** Boyle's sarcastic denial of his love of food, accompanied by nervous laughter, creates a humorous moment that others in the precinct can relate to and laugh at. These interactions strengthen his relationships with his colleagues and show his role as a sympathetic and relatable team member.

Charles Boyle uses a variety of comedic styles such as puns, self-irony and sarcasm, which not only add depth to the characters but also enhance the overall humour and realism of the narrative. His ability to work through his insecurities and problems with humor makes him a beloved character whose interactions and relationships with others are enhanced by his unique comic perspective.

4. Terry Jeffords

Terry Jeffords, known for his physical strength and caring nature, often uses puns, sarcasm and irony in his dialogue. His humor reflects his personality, which blends a commanding presence with a gentle, often self-aware sense of humor. Jeffords' lines reveal his approach to balancing work, family, and personal insecurities.

Wordplay and Sarcasm: Terry Jeffords often uses puns and sarcasm to navigate his daily life and interactions. These elements of humor highlight his intelligence, creativity, and sometimes frustration with the situations he encounters.

Example:

- *“Release your sweets.”* (Page 4, Line 10)
 - **Analysis:** This playful command uses wordplay to humorously address a situation involving sweets, showcasing Terry’s ability to inject light-heartedness into routine tasks.

Character's Feelings: Jeffords' sarcastic and ironic remarks often reveal his deeper feelings about his personal problems, responsibilities and relationships. His humor serves as a way for him to express his vulnerability and frustration.

Example:

- *“I ended up doing 25 minutes of sleep chin-ups on muscle memory alone. Tired Terry still gets after it, that's all I'm saying.”* (Page 23, Line 10)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement highlights Terry’s dedication to fitness even when exhausted, humorously exaggerating his commitment and hinting at his struggle to balance rest and his rigorous fitness routine. Terry uses irony in his statement to humorously exaggerate his commitment to fitness. The idea that he does "chin-ups in his sleep" suggests that he is so ingrained in his fitness routine that he exercises in his sleep. This hyperbole highlights Terry's determination and humorous way of emphasizing his strong work ethic even when he is physically exhausted. The quote underscores Terry's unwavering commitment to his fitness regimen. Although he is tired ("tired Terry"), he humorously portrays himself as someone who remains disciplined and continues to "go for it".

Humor and Realism: Terry's wordplay, sarcasm and irony add humour and realism to his character. His witty remarks and insights make him relatable because they reflect the real challenges of juggling a demanding job and personal life.

Example:

- *“I ate one string bean. It tasted like fish vomit.”* (Page 10, Line 18)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic comment humorously expresses Terry’s disdain for a particular food, adding a touch of realism to his character by showcasing a common, relatable experience of disliking certain foods. Terry uses irony in his statement to humorously exaggerate his dislike of beans. By comparing her taste to *“fish vomit”*, Terry vividly expresses her dislike in a way that is both exaggerated and comical. This ironic simile adds humour to the situation as vomit is universally recognised as something unpleasant, emphasising the intensity of Terry's negative reaction.

Character Dynamics: Jeffords' humor greatly influences his interactions with the other characters. His wordplay, sarcasm, and irony often serve to ease tensions, establish friendships, and emphasize his role as a strong leader and caring friend.

Example:

- *“No, not that. My brother-in-law is coming to have dinner with me on his way to JFK. But also, the botched investigation, that's bad too.”* (Page 32, Line 18)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark reflects Terry’s ability to prioritize personal matters while acknowledging professional setbacks. It highlights his dual responsibilities and his humorous way of managing stress.

Terry Jeffords uses puns, sarcasm and irony to not only define his character but also enhance the humour and clarity of the narrative. His playful and self-aware humor allows for a deeper understanding of his personality, his problems, and his relationships with his colleagues. Through his humour, Jeffords connects with the audience, making him a popular and multifaceted character.

5. Rosa Diaz

Rosa Diaz, known for her abrasive and enigmatic personality, often uses irony and sarcasm in her dialogues. Her humour often reflects her uncompromising attitude, disdain for frivolity and sharp wit. Diaz's lines reveal her perspective on the absurdities of her surroundings and interactions with her colleagues.

Sarcasm and Irony: Sarcasm and irony are essential components of Rosa Diaz's humour. She uses these elements to express her scepticism, frustration and often hidden concern for her colleagues. Her humour tends to be dry, dark and sharp.

Example:

- “*It’s the one without any blood on it.*” (Page 2, Line 18)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic comment about identifying an item without blood underscores Rosa's dark humor and familiarity with violence, which is a stark contrast to more typical, lighter office humor. The quote adds to Rosa's characterization by revealing her darker, grittier side. Throughout the series, Rosa is portrayed as a tough and mysterious detective who is not threatening in the face of danger or violence. Her casual mention of blood in a humorous context is in keeping with her character and shows her comfort with topics that might make others uncomfortable.

Character's Feelings: Diaz's sarcastic and ironic remarks provide insight into her feelings about her work and her colleagues. These remarks often reveal her scepticism, high standards, and hidden loyalty and care for the team.

Example:

- “*Oh, look at that. 'Boyle saves Thanksgiving.'*” (Page 11, Line 6)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark shows her disbelief and understated acknowledgment of Boyle’s efforts. It highlights her tough exterior while subtly appreciating Boyle’s contributions. Rosa's commentary is full of sarcasm, expressing her disbelief or ironic appreciation of Boyle's role in saving Thanksgiving. The use of quotation marks around the words “*Boyle saves Thanksgiving*” emphasizes her sceptical or mocking tone, suggesting that she finds the idea amusing or unexpected.

Humor and Realism: Rosa's use of irony and sarcasm adds humour and realism to her character. Her dry wit and direct approach to life makes her relatable to viewers, especially those who appreciate a no-nonsense approach.

Example:

- “*It looks like you live on the set of Murder, She Wrote.*” (Page 6, Line 15)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement humorously critiques someone’s living space by comparing it to a murder mystery show set, emphasizing her sharp observational

skills and dark humor. This remark shows Rosa's keen powers of observation and suggests that she notices details that others might miss. Her ability to make quick and apt observations is a defining feature of her personality in the series. By comparing the living space to a television set known for its distinct aesthetic, Rosa adds a layer of humor and wit to her commentary.

Character Dynamics: Diaz's humor greatly influences her interactions with the other characters. Her sarcastic and ironic remarks often serve to make her a grounded and reality-checking figure in the group. Her interactions, especially her deadpan speech, add to the dynamic by balancing out the more chaotic and emotional characters.

Example:

- *“Amy broke everything and got us kicked out of the bar. Then we got attacked by rats. It’s the best Thanksgiving ever.”* (Page 17, Line 3)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic comment reflects Rosa’s ability to find humor in chaos and disaster, highlighting her resilience and darkly comedic outlook on situations that others might find purely stressful.

The sarcasm and irony that Rosa Diaz uses not only define her character, but also enhance the humour and relatability of the narrative. Her sharp wit and dry humor allow for a deeper understanding of her personality, her norms, and her relationships with her colleagues. Through her humor, Diaz connects with the audience, making her a compelling and memorable character.

6. Raymond Holt

Raymond Holt, a stoic and highly disciplined precinct captain, often uses sarcasm, irony and puns in his dialogue. His humor often contrasts with his serious demeanour, creating a unique and memorable character. Holt's repartee reflects his intelligence, sophistication, and subtle way of expressing disapproval or amusement.

Sarcasm and Irony: Sarcasm and irony are an integral part of Raymond Holt's humour. He uses these elements to maintain control, comment on situations and subtly express his thoughts and feelings.

Example:

- *“In my office?”* (Page 4, Line 14)

- **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark is Holt's way of questioning an action or statement that he finds questionable or unnecessary. It highlights his ability to convey disapproval or scepticism with minimal words. This comment subtly questions the authority or decision-making that led to the situation. By emphasizing the word "*my office*," Holt implies ownership and responsibility, suggesting that actions taken in this space should conform to his expectations or standards. The rhetorical nature of the question suggests that he considers the situation unexpected or inappropriate.

Character's Feelings: Holt's sarcastic and ironic remarks provide insight into his feelings about his work, colleagues and expectations. These remarks often reveal his high standards, desire for order, and gentle sense of humor.

Example:

- “*The fonts suit the tone. Good work. (Shake hands) I do feel, however, the word choice could've been improved in spots. I marked them "Awk" for "Awkward."*” (Page 18, Line 17)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark demonstrates Holt's attention to detail and his indirect way of giving criticism. It shows his high expectations and his method of balancing praise with constructive feedback. Holt's comment demonstrates his ability to balance praise with constructive criticism. He acknowledges the positive aspects of the work at the outset ("*Good work.*") and praises it ("*The fonts suit the tone.*"). But then he moves on to areas that need improvement, demonstrating his ability to critically evaluate while acknowledging effort.

Humor and Realism: Holt uses sarcasm, irony and puns to add humour and realism to his character. With his dry wit and precise language, he appeals to audiences who appreciate a more intellectual and controlled approach to humor.

Example:

- “*Detective Peralta has made a collar in the jewellery store heist.*” (Page 22, Line 11)
 - **Analysis:** This use of wordplay humorously refers to Peralta's arrest (collar) in a way that aligns with Holt's formal and precise speaking style. It adds a touch of lightness to a serious situation. The quote uses a pun that humorously describes Jake Peralta's success in getting arrested during a jewellery store robbery. In police parlance, "to make a collar" means to make an arrest. Holt's

choice of words, especially the use of the word "collar" in this context, adds a layer of cleverness and humor to his account.

Character Dynamics: Holt's humor greatly influences his interactions with the other characters. His sarcastic and ironic remarks often serve to reinforce his authority, provide guidance, and subtly show his care for the team. His dry humor creates a contrast to the more chaotic and emotional characters and balances the dynamics in the precinct.

Example:

- *"That was it. I was just demonstrating for Detective Peralta what a fact is."* (Page 23, Line 3)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic joke serves to correct Peralta while also highlighting Holt's precise and factual nature. It reflects his role as a mentor and his subtle way of educating his team.

Raymond Holt uses sarcasm, irony and puns that not only define his character but also enhance the humor and depth of the narrative. His precise and controlled humor allows for a deeper understanding of his personality, his high standards, and his relationships with his colleagues. With his dry wit and intellectual humor, Holt connects with his audience, making him a unique and compelling character

7. Gina Linetti

Gina Linetti, the civilian district administrator, is known for her eccentric, bold and confident personality. Her humor is characterized by a great deal of irony and sarcasm, which often makes her comments sharp and memorable. Linetti's catchphrases reflect her unique worldview, self-awareness, and penchant for snide remarks.

Sarcasm and Irony: Sarcasm and irony are at the heart of Gina Linetti's humour. She uses these elements to express contempt, to mock situations and to assert her dominance in conversations. Her humour often has an edge, reflecting her self-awareness and sometimes condescension.

Example:

- *"Did you make the cover of 'Hair Pulled Back' magazine?"* (Page 5, Line 2)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic comment humorously mocks someone's appearance in a specific and exaggerated way, showcasing Gina's sharp tongue and quick wit. In

her comment, Gina uses irony to mock someone's appearance, specifically referring to "*Hair Pulled Back*" magazine as a humorous exaggeration. She alludes to the fact that a person's hairstyle or overall appearance is so distinctive or unusual that it could appear on the cover of a magazine devoted to unconventional hairstyles. This irony adds a layer of humor by exaggerating the situation for comedic effect.

Character's Feelings: Linetti's sarcastic and ironic remarks provide insight into her feelings about her colleagues, her work and her approach to life. These remarks often reveal her self-awareness, love of drama, and ability to turn any situation into a platform for her humor.

Example:

- "*Oh, my God, Amy, that's so cool that you still live with your grandmother.*" (Page 6, Line 12)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic comment belittles Amy's living situation while pretending to be a compliment, revealing Gina's tendency to be both critical and humorous simultaneously. Gina's comment is full of irony. On the surface, it appears to be a compliment ("*that's so cool*"), but the tone and context reveal that she is making light of Amy's life situation. Living with her grandmother could mean a lack of independence or maturity for Gina, and her comment subtly mocks Amy for this.

Humor and Realism: Gina uses irony and sarcasm, which adds humor and realism to her character. Her biting remarks and dramatic speech make her a prominent figure in the precinct and realistically portray a person who uses humor as a tool for self-expression and social orientation.

Example:

- "*Aw, no. Aw, Amy, I was ordering a drink called 'A Rough Night.' It's tequila with a nicotine patch.*" (Page 14, Line 14)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement showcases Gina's penchant for over-the-top and dark humor, adding a touch of absurdity that reflects her unique personality. Gina's testimony is characterized by black and exaggerated humor. The drink's name, "*Rough Night*", humorously suggests a concoction that combines the effects of tequila (usually associated with parties and wild nights) with a nicotine patch (used to quit smoking or manage nicotine addiction). The absurdity of the

name of such a drink and its ingredients underlines Gina's penchant for unconventional and sometimes morbid humour.

Character Dynamics: Linetti's humor greatly influences her interactions with the other characters. Her sarcastic and ironic remarks often serve to make her a dominant and unpredictable force in the group. Her interactions are characterized by her confidence and ability to turn any situation into an opportunity for a smart remark.

Example:

- *"Uh, you think you can just bully people, but you can't. It's not okay. I'm the bully around here, ask anyone."* (Page 23, Line 14)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement humorously asserts Gina's role as the precinct's dominant personality, highlighting her self-assured nature and her ability to use humor to assert her position.

Gina Linetti's use of sarcasm and irony not only define her character, but also enhance the humor and complexity of the narrative. Her sharp, dramatic humor allows for a deeper understanding of her personality, her self-awareness, and her interactions with her colleagues. Through her witty and often incisive remarks, Linetti connects with the audience, making her a memorable and compelling character.

The results of the analysis allowed us to build a profile of each character based on the type of humor they use most often and to identify patterns that reflect their personality traits. This in-depth analysis allowed us to understand not only how each character expresses themselves through humor, but also what underlies these types of humor in their characters and why they have become key team members and iconic characters in the *Brooklyn 99* series.

3. Verbal Humor in The Office

3.1 Background; development and production of the series

The Office, another series that is one of the most famous in the world. The series is based on the original version of the same name, "*The Office*", which aired for just two years, from 2001 to 2003. Anyway, the newer version gained much more popularity and added more series, unlike its predecessor, which starred Ricky Gervais or Martin Freeman. The only difference between the two identical series is that the original version of *The Office* originated in the UK and the newer *The Office* is American. The 2001 series was created by two producers, Ricky Gervais, who even starred in it, and Stephen Merchant. After the release of the British version of *The Office*, the Americans quickly tried to surpass its popularity, which they did. The Americans wanted to be much more successful, so they tried to come up with a better script than the British one (Totušek, 2021). According to the author and the audience, the American *Office* is much funnier and more sophisticated. The worst thing is that the first six-part series was copied by the American writer, but fortunately the next series already had an original script which made it more popular.

The Office was created and filmed by Greg Daniels for American television. "*The Office* is a 21-minute sitcom produced by Deedle-Dee Productions and Reveille Productions in association with NBC" (Fandom, 2013). The first season aired in March 2005 and lasted until May 2013 (The Futon Critic, 2013). It contains 9 series and out of these series it has a total of 201 aired episodes. The series appeared primarily on the streaming channel NBC, which was only available in America. However, the series later went global. Now, the series can only be seen on the streaming service Netflix.

After the show went off the air, it became very popular, and continues to this day, and according to the ratings on IMBd Charts (<https://www.imdb.com/chart/top/>) it is one of the most popular shows.

The story takes place in the office of the Dunder Mifflin paper company in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The entire series is treated like a mockumentary sitcom or documentary, with the characters addressing the viewer (the camera) and commenting on situations that have happened.

The main theme of the series is the everyday life of office workers, their personal or professional problems and situations, mostly funny, that they encounter. The main characters include office manager Michael Scott (Steve Carell), who often tries to be funny and likable;

Jim Halpert (John Krasinski), Dwight Schrut (Rainn Wilson); and Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer). I consider these characters to be the main ones and they cannot be left out.

The Office is a similar series to *Brooklyn 99* in that it deals with many professional and personal lives, just in a different setting, namely the office. Not just similar work and personal lives, but also humor.

3.2 Genre and style characteristics of *The Office*

The Office is a documentary series where the characters know they are being filmed, and often speak directly to the camera (as a kind of interview). The series is generally considered a comedy series. Anyway, all elements of humour are present, mostly satire and irony. Most of these elements are used by the character Michael (the boss of the office), but mostly he is not aware of them or does not realise that by doing so he may hurt the feelings of others. In my opinion, the sitcom is also considered a cringe comedy, where often awkward and uncomfortable situations are used as a source of humor. Such situations often lead to misunderstandings between characters, as individuals are usually unsure of what to do or say when faced with embarrassing circumstances.

The Office focuses on the development of characters that change and evolve over the course of the sitcom. Not only the characters themselves, but also the social relationships or romances and friendships between each other in and out of the workplace.

The script of the series and the performances are very realistic and capture the essence of everyday life. However, like most fictional stories, the narrative itself is fictional and may contain some unrealistic elements.

By having the characters speak directly to the camera, they add realism and authenticity to the series. In addition to the prevailing humour, the series offers an insight into the possible dynamics of a real work environment and presents an imaginative portrayal of office life. It shows elements of real life that change for the employees as well, with the characters changing throughout the series. This aspect is significant because it adds depth and authenticity to the series and allows viewers to connect with the experiences and emotions of the characters as they develop over the course of the series.

Overall, the series became entertaining due to its breakneck and awkward elements. The awkward silences between characters or between characters' dialogue adds to the comedic elements of the entire series. This is why this series is very popular all over the world.

3.3 The predominant means of verbal humor in *The Office*

This subsection deals with jokes that appeared in two full episodes of *The Office*. Specifically, these are the Health Care episodes from the first season and the Hot Girl episode also from the first season.

All the jokes in the dialogue will be listed in the attachment of this paper. The attachment will mention who is telling the joke and the joke will be classified according to the first chapter of this thesis. The jokes will be numbered, and it will also be described on which line and on which side of the dialogue sheet they are located.

For the analysis of the jokes from *The Office* series, I have chosen only four main characters because they are the most prominent and talked about in the series. The other characters do not have as much dialogue between them, and therefore I would not have enough information from two episodes of this series. By focusing on these four main characters, I will get a more detailed and accurate analysis because their interactions and comical moments are the most prominent and frequent.

The aim of this study was to analyse the use of verbal humor in the comedy series *The Office* and to find out whether and how this type of humor is used to characterize characters. By classifying jokes from two episodes into the categories of puns, sarcasm, irony, puns and jokes, we identified patterns that reflect the personality traits of each character. We explored what kind of humor each character uses most often and analyzed how this humor contributes to their characterization and three specific elements will be characterized for each character: character feelings, humor and realism, and character dynamics (Greene, 2020).

The results of the analysis showed that each character in *The Office* series has a specific style of humor that matches their personality and role in the story.

Michael Scott: 5 sarcasms, 4 jokes, 2 ironies, 1 wordplay

Jim Halpert: 6 sarcasms, 2 jokes, 2 ironies

Dwight Schrute: 4 sarcasms, 3 ironies, 3 jokes

Pam Beesly: 3 ironies, 2 sarcasms, 1 joke

1. Michael Scott

Michael Scott, Dunder Mifflin's bumbling and often inappropriate regional manager, is known for his over-the-top personality, failed attempts at humor and unfiltered remarks. His

dialogue often contains sarcasm, irony, and puns that serve to highlight his lack of self-awareness and desperate need to be liked by his employees.

Sarcasm and Irony: Sarcasm and irony are key to Michael Scott's humour. He often uses them in a misguided attempt to connect with his employees or to distract from his own insecurities and shortcomings.

Example:

- *“The most sacred thing I do is care and provide for my workers, my family. I give them money. I give them food. Not directly, but through the money. I heal them. Today, I am in charge of picking a great new health care plan. Right? That's what this is all about. Does that make me their doctor? Um... Yes, in a way. Yeah, like a specialist.”* (Page 1, Line 11)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark reflects Michael’s inflated sense of self-importance and his need to feel vital to his employees' lives, despite the obvious exaggeration and absurdity of his claims. The absurdity of Michael's claims is obvious when he refers to himself as a provider of food and money and, even more humorously, as a healer. He claims to fulfil these roles indirectly, through his position and decisions. Particularly exaggerated is the comparison to a doctor or specialist, which highlights the disconnect between Michael's perception of his role and the reality of his work. This discrepancy creates a humorous effect and illustrates Michael's tendency to dramatize his duties.

Character's Feelings: Michael's sarcastic and ironic remarks often provide insight into his feelings of inadequacy and his constant struggle to be loved and respected. His humor, though often misplaced, is a window into his desire for recognition and his efforts to mask his insecurities.

Example:

- *“Well, that is kind of a tough assignment. Um... It won't be a popular decision around the old orifice.”* (Page 1, Line 24)
 - **Analysis:** This use of wordplay and sarcasm shows Michael’s attempt to lighten the mood about an unpopular decision, revealing his anxiety about how he is perceived by his employees. Michael's use of the word "orifice" instead of "office" is a prime example of his penchant for puns. This pun is characteristic of Michael's often childish sense of humour. Sarcasm is evident in his tone as he

downplays the seriousness of an unpopular decision and tries to make light of a situation that is likely causing him stress.

Humor and Realism: Michael's use of sarcasm, irony and puns adds humour and a touch of realism to his character. His often inappropriate and misguided comments reflect the real problems of a manager trying to navigate office dynamics, although in a very hyperbolic and comedic way.

Example:

- *“There's a decision that needs to be made, and I'm having an unbelievably busy day.”*
(Page 2, Line 16)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement highlights Michael's tendency to overstate his own importance and busyness, adding to the humor and absurdity of his character. His statement that he has had an *"unbelievably busy day"* is meant to underline his own importance and the gravity of his role. However, viewers who know Michael know that his days are often filled with unimportant activities and distractions rather than meaningful managerial tasks. This contrast between his perception and reality is a key source of humour.

Character Dynamics: Michael's humour greatly influences his interactions with the other characters. His sarcastic and ironic remarks often create tension or discomfort, but also serve to highlight his desperate attempts to connect with his team. His humor is a key element in the dynamic between him and his employees, who are often caught between frustration and pity for their well-meaning but clueless boss.

Example:

- *“Calling you to ask you a little favoroonie my friend. Um, trying to give the troops around here a little bit of a boost. And I was thinking that maybe we could take them down to take a spin on your big ride.”* (Page 7, Line 12)
 - **Analysis:** This use of wordplay and informal language shows Michael's attempt to foster camaraderie and boost morale, highlighting his misguided but well-intentioned leadership style. Michael's use of the term *"favoroonie"* and the phrase *"take a spin on your big ride"* is an example of his penchant for playful language and informal expressions. This choice of words reflects his desire to appear friendly and approachable and aims to create a relaxed atmosphere.

Michael Scott uses sarcasm, irony and puns that not only define his character, but also enhance the humor and depth of *The Office*. His inappropriate, exaggerated, and often misguided attempts at humor allow for a deeper understanding of his personality, his insecurities, and his relationships with his employees. With his unique brand of humor, Michael connects with the audience, making him a memorable and complex character.

2. Jim Halpert

Jim Halpert, a sales representative for Dunder Mifflin, is characterized by his dry wit, frequent use of sarcasm and ironic remarks. His humour is a key element of his personality and serves as a coping mechanism to deal with the monotony of office life, as well as a way to subtly criticize those around him.

Sarcasm and Irony: Jim often uses sarcasm and irony to express his discontent and mock the absurdities of his workplace. These elements of his humor highlight his intelligence and ability to see through the banality of office politics.

Example:

- “*Interesting, what’s that like?*” (Page 2, Line 11)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark shows Jim’s scepticism or disbelief in response to a statement he finds mundane or exaggerated. It’s a way for him to subtly express his disinterest. Jim’s remark is laced with sarcasm, a common feature of his interactions, especially when it comes to mundane or exaggerated statements. With the statement “*Interesting, what’s that like?*” puts Jim in a situation where he seems to dislike it. Jim subtly communicates his scepticism and disinterest without directly dismissing the other person’s comment.

Example:

- “*And uh, well, if this were my career, I’d have to throw myself in front of a train.*” (Page 3, Line 3)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement underscores Jim’s dissatisfaction with his job. It reveals his sense of being trapped in a career that he finds unfulfilling, a sentiment many viewers can relate to. When Jim says he would “*throw himself under a train*” if it were his career, he humorously conveys the depth of his discontent. This hyperbolic imagery underscores his sense of being stuck in a job that does not deeply fulfil him.

Character's Feelings: Jim's sarcastic and ironic remarks often reveal his deeper feelings of boredom and frustration. They give the audience a glimpse into his longing for something more meaningful and his struggle to find satisfaction in his current role.

Example:

- “*That's spontaneous dental hydropllosion.*” (Page 7, Line 9)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic and playful remark showcases Jim’s cleverness and his tendency to make light of mundane situations. It reflects his need to inject humor into his daily routine to cope with his dissatisfaction. Jim's remark, "*That's spontaneous dental hydropllosion,*" is a prime example of his sarcastic and playful temperament. By inventing a pseudo-medical term, he humorously exaggerates the situation and mocks the seriousness or absurdity of the original statement. The term "*spontaneous dental hydropllosion*" shows Jim's cleverness and quick wit. He combines scientific-sounding words to create a phrase that sounds plausible but is completely nonsensical.

Humor and Realism: Jim's humor adds to the fun and realism of *The Office*. His sarcastic remarks and ironic observations resonate with viewers who are aware of similar dynamics in their own workplaces.

Example:

- “*Sounds tough.*” (Page 8, Line 21)
 - **Analysis:** This brief sarcastic comment reflects Jim's ability to downplay exaggerated complaints or problems, emphasizing the trivial nature of many office issues and adding a layer of realism to the show.

Character Dynamics: Jim's humour is strongly influenced by his interactions with the other characters, especially Pam Beesly, with whom he shares a common fondness for sarcasm and irony. Their shared sense of humor strengthens their bond and provides a counterpoint to the more serious or absurd characters.

Example:

- “*Moms, primarily. Yep. Soccer moms. Single moms. NASCAR moms. Any type of moms, really.*” (Page 18, Line 22)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic comment, likely made in response to a question about his sales demographic, highlights Jim’s ability to mock the corporate focus on target audiences in a humorous way. It also shows his tendency to find humor in

mundane aspects of his job. The mention of "*soccer moms*," "*single moms*" and "*NASCAR moms*" pokes fun at stereotypical labels used in marketing. Jim's irony is that these labels are often used to pigeonhole and oversimplify consumer identities, which he gently criticizes through his humor. By overly focusing on different types of moms, he highlights the absurdity of such marketing strategies. This irony serves to highlight the often-ridiculous nature of corporate culture.

The sarcasm, irony and subtle puns make Jim Halpert a sympathetic and engaging character in the series. His humour is not only a comic relief, but also serves to critique the often-absurd nature of office life. Through his witty remarks, Jim connects with the audience and his colleagues and becomes a beloved and memorable part of the show's dynamic.

3. Dwight Schrute

Dwight Schrute, Dunder Mifflin's assistant regional director, is known for his eccentric behaviour, great loyalty to Michael Scott, and often bizarre yet humorous take on life and work. Dwight's use of sarcasm, irony and offbeat jokes reflects his unique personality and is in stark contrast to the more down-to-earth characters of *The Office*.

Sarcasm and Irony: Dwight's frequent use of sarcasm and irony highlights his authoritarian personality and his misguided attempts at leadership. These elements of his speech reveal his lack of social awareness and his rigid mindset.

Example:

- "*Maybe. I don't believe in coddling people.*" (Page 3, Line 19)
 - **Analysis:** Dwight Schrute's sarcastic remark: "*Maybe. I don't believe in coddling people,*" underscores his belief in a survival-of-the-fittest mentality and reflects his lack of empathy. This statement highlights Dwight's preference for a tough, unsympathetic approach to management and interpersonal relationships, providing insight into his character and creating a humorous contrast with his more accommodating colleagues. Dwight's exaggerated attitude toward coddling contributes to the comedic and dynamic nature of the workplace and enriches the narrative with his unique perspective on leadership and power.

Example:

- *“In the wild, there is no health care. In the wild, health care is, ‘Ow, I hurt my leg. I can’t run. A lion eats me and I’m dead.’ Well, I’m not dead. I’m the lion. You’re dead.”*
(Page 3, Line 20)

- **Analysis:** Dwight's statement is full of irony and exaggeration and shows his view of the office environment as a wild survival of the fittest scenario. The comparison to the wilderness is hyperbolic and emphasizes Dwight's tendency to dramatize situations. By comparing himself to a lion, Dwight sees himself as the top predator in the office. This perception of himself shows his exaggerated sense of superiority and dominance over his colleagues. He sees himself as strong, capable and invincible, which contrasts sharply with the often mundane and cooperative nature of real office work.

Character's Feelings: Dwight's sarcastic and ironic remarks often reveal his deep-seated need for control and desire to be seen as powerful and competent. They provide insight into his insecurities and obsession with hierarchy and rules.

Example:

- *“So what I’d like you to do is to fill this out and write down any diseases you have that you might want covered and I’ll see what I can do.”* (Page 6, Line 14)
- **Analysis:** This sarcastic directive reflects Dwight's belief that he has the authority to manage others' health care decisions. It underscores his delusions of grandeur and his misunderstanding of his actual role in the office.

Humor and Realism: Dwight's humour is often based on his literal interpretations and bizarre logic, which adds a layer of absurdity to the series. His use of sarcasm and irony makes him a source of comic relief while highlighting the exaggerated nature of office politics.

Example:

- *“I’m not mad. I just want to know who did it so I can punish them.”* (Page 8, Line 1)
- **Analysis:** This ironic statement highlights Dwight's authoritarian tendencies and his inability to understand normal social interactions. It adds humor by showcasing his disproportionate response to minor office issues. The quote underscores Dwight's authoritarian personality traits. He sees himself as the authority figure in the office and feels responsible for maintaining order and discipline. His immediate response to incidents is often to locate and punish the person responsible, regardless of the severity of the infraction.

Character Dynamics: Dwight's interactions with other characters are heavily influenced by his use of sarcasm and irony. These elements of his speech often create tension and conflict, especially with Jim Halpert, who often engages Dwight in pranks that take advantage of his gullibility.

Example:

- “*I thought your vagina was removed during your hysterectomy?*” (Page 11, Line 23)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic comment is a clear example of Dwight's lack of tact and his tendency to make inappropriate remarks. It demonstrates his often abrasive and clueless approach to interacting with colleagues. Dwight's comment is sarcastic and very inappropriate. It reflects his lack of tact and social awareness when discussing sensitive topics such as medical procedures or personal health issues. The remark is probably intended to be humorous from Dwight's perspective but comes across as rude and insulting to others.

Dwight Schrute's sarcasm, irony and quirky jokes define his character and set the tone for many of the comedic elements in the series. His unique perspective and obscure demeanour provide not only entertainment, but also a satirical look at the extremes of office culture and power dynamics.

4. Pam Beesly

Pam Beesly, a receptionist at Dunder Mifflin, is known for her gentle and often subtle sense of humour. Her dialogue often contains irony and sarcasm, reflecting her quiet wit and sometimes critical view of the absurdities of office life.

Sarcasm and Irony: Pam often uses sarcasm and irony to express her frustration and cope with the monotonous and often ridiculous aspects of her job. These elements of her humor allow her to gently criticize her surroundings and the people she works with while maintaining a calm and professional demeanour.

Example:

- “*No. I have life.*” (Page 2, Line 10)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic statement is Pam's way of dismissing a suggestion or question that she finds absurd, highlighting her awareness of the triviality of certain office matters. Pam's statement is ironic because it suggests that the suggestion or question that was asked is so insignificant that she does not consider it worthy of her attention. By stating "*No. I have a life*" she jokingly suggests that she has better things to focus on than the matter at hand. The quote

shows Pam's awareness and wit in navigating office interactions. Rather than flatly dismissing the topic outright, she responds with a light-hearted and somewhat humorous remark that also acknowledges the banality of the situation.

Example:

- “*You should try it sometime.*” (Page 2, Line 12)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic remark often follows her ironic statements, adding a layer of dry humor and reinforcing her critical view of the situation. It subtly challenges the other person’s lack of awareness or engagement with real life outside the office.

Character's Feelings: Pam often uses sarcasm and irony to reveal her feelings of dissatisfaction and longing for something more fulfilling than her current job. These remarks give the audience a glimpse into her more critical and thoughtful side.

Example:

- “*It's nice having Katy around. It's another person for Michael to um, interact with.*” (Page 17, Line 25)
 - **Analysis:** This ironic comment shows Pam's subtle frustration with Michael’s constant need for attention and interaction. It reveals her preference for peace and quiet and her weariness with Michael’s antics

Humor and Realism: Pam's humor gives *The Office* a touch of realism. Her sarcasm and irony are close to anyone who has experienced the monotony and absurdity of office life. Her understated wit is a realistic counterpoint to the exaggerated characters, giving the series a believable workplace dynamic.

Example:

- “*I'm inventing new diseases.*” (Page 7, Line 6)
 - **Analysis:** This sarcastic statement humorously expresses Pam’s boredom and frustration with her job. It highlights her creative yet resigned approach to dealing with her dissatisfaction, adding to the realism of her character.

Character Dynamics: Pam's sarcastic and ironic remarks often influence her interactions with other characters. Her humor serves as a coping mechanism and a way for her to bond with

colleagues like Jim, who shares her appreciation for the absurdity of their workplace. Her subtle wit helps define her relationships and her role within the office dynamic.

Example:

- “*So, let's say my teeth turn to liquid and then, they drip down the back of my throat. What would you call that?*” (Page 7, Line 8)
 - **Analysis:** This joke, although exaggerated, showcases Pam's ability to find humor in the mundane and her knack for creating amusing scenarios to entertain herself and others. It often resonates with colleagues who share her sense of humor, strengthening their connection. The quote shows Pam's ability to find humor in the mundane aspects of everyday life. By creating such a strange and imaginative scenario, she demonstrates her creativity and talent for entertaining herself and those around her.

Pam Beesly's use of sarcasm, irony and subtle humour adds depth to her character and enriches the overall dynamic of the series. Her understated wit provides a realistic portrayal of a young woman navigating a monotonous job, while her critical observations and witty remarks offer an interesting perspective on office life.

4. Comparison of the verbal humour of *Brooklyn 99* and *The Office*

Brooklyn Nine-Nine and *The Office* are popular comedy series that focus on humor in a variety of settings.

Set in a fictional police precinct in Brooklyn, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* follows a group of detectives as they solve cases and experience comical situations in their daily work lives. The humor in this series often relies on snappy dialogue, puns, and interactions between the diverse and eccentric characters.

The Office series is set in a regular Dunder Mifflin office environment where we follow the daily lives of the employees. The series is known for its dry, often awkward humour that comes from the absurd situations and inappropriate behaviour of the main characters, especially the manager Michael Scott. The humour here includes irony and sarcasm that underline both common and unusual situations in the office environment.

The aim of this chapter is to compare the verbal humour in these two series to better understand their different comedic approaches and their effectiveness in different contexts.

4.1 Main differences in verbal humour: Brooklyn Nine-Nine

4.1.1 Key Differences in Verbal Humor

Tone

Brooklyn Nine-Nine:

Light-hearted and Upbeat: The show has a positive and energetic spirit. The characters often engage in playful jokes and humorous situations despite the serious nature of police work. The precinct feels like a close-knit community where camaraderie and teamwork are at the forefront.

Optimistic outlook: Even when the characters face problems or conflicts, they remain mostly optimistic and supportive of each other, which contributes to the good atmosphere of the series.

Humorous resolution of conflicts: Problems and misunderstandings are often resolved in a humorous way that keeps the atmosphere light even in the more tense moments of the plot.

The Office:

Exploration of mundane and bleak aspects: Humour often comes from the boredom and monotony of office life. The characters often struggle with boredom, unfulfilling tasks and the unpleasant dynamics of the typical workplace.

Cringe comedy: The series is known for its awkward moments when characters are put in socially awkward or embarrassing situations. This type of humor highlights the often bleak and uncomfortable aspects of everyday interactions in the office.

Subtle dark humor: There are elements of black humour, especially in the way some of the characters deal with their dissatisfaction or frustration with their work and life.

Pacing

Brooklyn Nine-Nine:

Fast-paced dialogue: The programme is characterised by quick exchanges of views and snappy remarks that reflect the fast pace of police work. As a result, the show has a high energy and jokes are frequent, in almost every dialogue.

Dynamic scenes: The pace of the film is often set by dynamic and action-packed scenes such as chases, undercover operations and other police activities. As a result, the film features various humorous scenarios and quickly changes tone.

Frequent cutaways and flashbacks: The use of cuts and flashbacks to past events or imaginary scenarios adds to the fast pace and quickly adds additional layers of humour and context but the flashbacks are often very brief.

The Office:

Slow and deliberate pace: The series takes its time with scenes, allowing awkward silences and long pauses to heighten the humor. This slow pace reflects the sometimes tedious nature of office work that many people encounter.

Focus on mundane activities: Many episodes focus on everyday office activities and interactions, with the humour coming from close observation of these routine activities.

Documentary style: The mockumentary format lends itself to a more deliberate pace, with characters often speaking directly to the camera and thinking, which contributes to a slower, more contemplative rhythm. For some characters (Dwight Schrute) this is particularly comical, as his expressions are themselves comical.

Setting and Context

Brooklyn Nine-Nine:

Police precinct setting: The environment allows for a wide range of scenarios, from crime solving and surveillance to precinct games and office pranks. The variety of situations provides ample opportunity for diverse humor. So, there is an infinity of topics that can be tackled here and still have comic effect.

Action-oriented context: Against the backdrop of a police procedural, the humour can be more dynamic and situational, and can include action and adventure elements, and is often catchier for the audience.

Team dynamics: Cohesive team dynamics play a central role in the series, with much of the humour coming from the interactions and relationships within the team.

The Office:

Office setting: The cramped, everyday office environment is a consistent backdrop for the humor, which focuses on the interpersonal dynamics and often absurd nature of corporate life. This space is the main setting for the entire series, which adds just the right amount of cramped atmosphere.

Realistic and relatable scenarios: The humour is often based on situations that many employees encounter in offices, such as annoying co-workers, pointless meetings and office politics.

Character-driven: The setting allows for deep insight into the development of the characters and the humour that arises from their personal idiosyncrasies, habits and interactions. This thoughtfulness allows us to characterize the individual characters, and to predict their future reactions to different situations.

The differences in verbal humor between *B99* and *The Office* are shaped by their distinct tones, pacing, and settings. *B99* thrives on its light-hearted, fast-paced, and dynamic approach, while *The Office* excels in its slow, deliberate, and character-driven humor that captures the mundane yet absurd aspects of office life. These unique comedic styles make each show stand out and cater to different tastes in humor.

While *B99* creates a feel-good and lively atmosphere through energetic dialogue and witty conflict resolution, traditional office comedies explore the everyday and classic aspects

of office life, using wry and dark humor to reflect the often uncomfortable and monotonous nature of workplace dynamics.

The *B99* series prides itself on its fast pace, witty exchanges and light-hearted banter that keep the tone of the series upbeat and engaging. The characters' interactions are filled with jokes, puns and playful banter, creating an atmosphere in which even serious situations are approached with humor and optimism. The district is portrayed as a close-knit community where conflicts are resolved in fun and creative ways that emphasize friendship and teamwork. This approach ensures that viewers feel a sense of positivity and joy regardless of the intensity of the plot.

On the other hand, traditional office comedies like *The Office* deal with the more mundane and often bleak aspects of office life. The humour in these shows often draws on the dull and primitive tasks that define the workplace, highlighting the frustration and dissatisfaction of the characters. A hallmark of these comedies are the breakneck moments where characters find themselves in socially awkward situations. This type of humour highlights the uncomfortable and sometimes absurd environment of everyday interactions in the office. In addition, subtle black humour is used to address deeper issues such as fear and job dissatisfaction, which adds to the comedy's difficulty in understanding some of these situations.

Both styles of humor effectively engage the audience by reflecting different aspects of the workplace experience. While the *B99* series offers a more upbeat and cheerful portrayal, traditional office comedies provide a more realistic and often poignant look at the everyday problems and discomforts of office life.

Conclusion

This paper focused on a comparison of verbal humor in the TV series Brooklyn Nine-Nine and The Office. The main goal was to understand the different comedic approaches of these two popular series and their effectiveness in different contexts.

Brooklyn Nine-Nine is characterized by its light and upbeat tone, fast-paced dialogue, and dynamic scenes. The humor here often comes from playful jokes, puns, and interactions between the diverse and eccentric characters. Conflicts are often resolved in a humorous manner, which adds to the positive atmosphere of the series. In contrast, The Office focuses on the mundane and often grim aspects of office life. The humour comes from the boredom and monotony of work, awkward moments and irony. The series is known for its dry and often unpleasant humour, which highlights the absurd nature of everyday interactions in the workplace.

The results show that while the series Brooklyn Nine-Nine creates a sense of joy and liveliness through energetic dialogue and witty conflict resolution, The Office focuses on the mundane and often unpleasant aspects of office life and uses dry and dark humor to reflect on the often unpleasant and monotonous nature of the work environment. The research contributes to a better understanding of different styles of comedy and their impact on audiences. While Brooklyn Nine-Nine offers a more upbeat and entertaining view of work, The Office provides a more realistic and often poignant portrayal of the daily office routine. These different approaches can help content creators better target different audiences and their preferences.

Several limitations of this study should be mentioned. The analysis was conducted on only two specific episodes of each series, which may limit the generalizability of the results. Furthermore, the subjective nature of humour may affect the interpretation of the results, as different audiences may react differently to humour. Future research could include a broader range of comedy series and examine how different cultural contexts influence the perception of humour. Further studies could also examine how different demographic groups respond to different types of verbal humour and how this affects their overall viewing experience.

This research highlights the importance of understanding different styles of humor and how they affect audiences. We hope that our findings will inspire further study and discussion in the field of comedy and media studies, and that they will contribute to the creation of content that can appeal to and entertain a wide range of audiences.

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Resumé

Tato práce se zaměřuje na hloubkovou analýzu verbálního humoru v populárních televizních seriálech Brooklyn Nine-Nine (2013) a The Office (2005). Hlavním cílem je porovnat a zhodnotit, jak jsou v těchto seriálech využívány různé formy verbálního humoru a jak jsou dialogy strukturovány, aby bylo dosaženo komického účinku.

K dosažení tohoto cíle byla použita metoda kvalitativní analýzy, která diagnostikovala vtipy, jež se v epizodách seriálu objevují. Vtipy byly systematicky analyzovány a kategorizovány, přičemž byly identifikovány různé formy slovního humoru, včetně slovních hříček, sarkasmu a situační komiky.

Výsledky analýzy naznačují, že jak seriál B99, tak seriál Kancl používají verbální humor jako klíčový prvek svých komediálních narativů. Zatímco seriál "B99" se vyznačuje svižným a energickým stylem s častým používáním chytrých slovních hříček a absurdních situací z prostředí newyorské policie, "Kancl" dává přednost jemnějšímu a sofistikovanějšímu humoru, který se nachází v běžných a trapných situacích v kancelářském prostředí.

Srovnání obou seriálů ukazuje, že slovní humor má různé podoby, ale stále je silným prvkem komediálního žánru. Tato práce umožňuje hlouběji pochopit rozmanitost a bohatost slovního humoru v televizním vyprávění. Byly identifikovány klíčové charakteristiky a strategie používané oběma seriály, které mohou sloužit jako základ pro další výzkum komediálního televizního žánru.