The clean, the dirty and the ugly: A critical analysis of 'clean joke' Web Sites

Limor Shifman, Hamutal Ma'apil Varsano

Abstract

The paper focuses on the phenomenon of 'clean joke' Web sites. Such sites are often described as providing family-friendly humor, which is safe for children. However, our analysis reveals that the term 'clean joke' has mainly one operative meaning: a joke which is 'sex-free'. Whereas sex is excluded from 'clean joke' sites, sexist, racist and ageist content does appear in them. Therefore, the problematic message some of these Web sites convey is that: a) sex is 'dirty'; and b) sexism and other forms of discrimination are 'clean'. We interpret these findings both at the cultural level as manifestations of negative Western attitudes towards sexuality, and also at the technological level as easy solutions for child protection in the digital era.

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Because it scares the crap out of their dogs. 10. I went in to a pet shop. I said, “Can I buy a goldfish?” The guy said, “Do you want an aquarium?” I said, “I don’t care what star sign it is.” 11. What do you get when you cross a dyslexic, an insomniac, and an agnostic? Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there is a dog. 12. A pirate walks into a bar with a steering wheel on his pants, a peg leg and a parrot on his shoulder. The bartender says, “Hey, you’ve got a steering wheel on your pants.” The pirate says, “Arrrr, I know. He wanted to get a long little doggie. 47. If you want to find out who loves you more, stick your wife and dog in the trunk of your car for an hour. When you open the trunk, who is happy to see you? 48. Sometimes I tuck my knees into my chest and lean forward.