

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five points including background, statements of problem, the objectives of the research, the significances of the research, and the definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

Language has a power in daily life as a media of communication and it is interesting to be discussed, because language can be used in many sectors and indirectly can influence the hearers. Therefore, no wonder there are many people such as motivators, public speakers, even an actors who have popularity in recent time, because they use language in speech and can influence the hearers. In this case when someone speaks about something, actually he or she shows the speech act that can form the action of ask, convince, pledge, promise, deceive, persuade, and so many others.

Language is also a words that has value of art and contains meaning through good ideas and is usually based on someone's experience or imagination. When people some into speaking there is a communication plays an important role in human's life. Without communication, people in the society will not be able to understand each other since they do not have any social contact. Social contact is very essential for human being because it is the foundation to build strong connection among people in the society. According to Goodwin and Heritage (Liddicoat, 2007: 01), social interaction is a means to transact the business of social world which can also affirm participants' identities and also transmit cultures to

others. Therefore, to make a social contact functioned and transmitted properly; people need to have language as a means of communication.

As a means of communication, language has several functions. Generally, people use language to communicate their intention to others. Specifically, language is used by people to convey messages or to send information in order to make the conversation activities run smoothly. In other words, language is functioned as a means to share information such as recent news, interesting activities and gossip. Moreover, Chaika (1982: 2) also states that people use language to reveal or conceal personal identity, character, and background without realizing that they are actually doing so.

Therefore, every person has their own way to choose the language variation which can confirm one's identity. Some people may prefer to use language that has a strong impact when they are sad or angry. For instance, people sometimes use certain kind of words that are considered as bad language which is actually inappropriate to use. One of the ways to express their feeling is by producing taboo words. People usually produce taboo words to swear because they are the strongest way to express their dissatisfaction. They sometimes emphasize people's real intention.

Taboo terms were firstly introduced by Captain Cook in the late 18th century when he was sent to Tahiti. According to Allan and Burrige (2006: 2-3), taboo or known as tabu is a Tongan term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous and therefore it must be avoided. In every culture, there are both taboo

acts which are things that are not supposed to do and taboo words which are things that are not supposed to say. Both are related to each other because some taboo act have corresponding taboo words, while others do not (Fairman, 2009: 27). The example of this case is the act of incest which is known as taboo so is the motherfucker that denotes incest activity. However, there are other words that are considered as taboo while the action they denote is not considered as taboo. When people talk about sex, it is often considered as taboo while the act itself is not forbidden if it is done by the appropriate person in suitable place and time. Therefore, words that are related or linked to taboo act will automatically become taboo words (K. Allan and K Burrige, 2006: 2). Taboo words are always associated with inappropriate language and it cannot be used in daily conversations. Therefore, taboo words still manage as offensive and savage words in most languages, such as English.

There is an assumption that taboo words are mostly uttered by lower class people with lower educational background since it is believed that educational background affects the way people speak. The way people speak is an indicator of their social background. On the other hand, the assumption is somehow not true because people with good educational background in some occasions still use indecent and offensive language in their conversation. When people utter taboo words whether they are educated or uneducated, there must be reason that lies behind it. Some people are not merely uttered taboo words because they want to do so. Sometime they speak taboo words for certain goal such as attracting attention from other people or to show their contempt. Based on this consideration, the

researcher is interested to analyze taboo words phenomenon in a movie especially on the types of taboo words used and the functions of taboo words uttered by the characters in the movie.

Movie and literature are the artistic expressions of human mind. Man thinks of different ways of communicating human experiences to broaden the enlightenment scenario. According to Cuddon:

Movie have served a number of purposes and assumed a number of roles in the development of twentieth century culture. From the birth movie, movies documented events, personalities and places, providing not only invaluable sources of information to scholars but a sense of how things looked and left. Also from the first, movie have played tricks on our imagination. (1998: 25)

Movie and literature are two different things with a similar goal to create sublimity in human imagination and understanding. Both movie and literature work hand in hand to boost the progress of human civilization and they are the complimentary in nature and one is no substitute to the other, like letters and sounds in human communication. Movie and literature inspire and enrich each-others. They also ennoble human mind through action, images, words and replicating life of human beings.

In conducting the research, the researcher chooses a movie as the source of data rather than conducting a kind of field study. Moreover, since movie is the representation of human real life, the researcher thinks that it is acceptable to use a movie as source of data. The researcher uses a movie entitled *This is England* as the source of the research. In This Is England movie, the characters frequently use taboo words in their conversations so that the utterances can be analyzed easily.

Using taboo words will create a problem for many people if they do not understand the meaning and the functions why others utter taboo words. Therefore, the researcher is interested to analyze the problem that may happen through a movie which is a representation of human life in society. Moreover, the characters in this movie mostly come from people with lower and higher educational background. Therefore, it is interesting to analyze the use of taboo words by the characters can influence the society of life. Hence, it can provide a good example of the occurrence of taboo words in well-educated society.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

From the description above, the research attempts to focus on the problem that may happen through a movie which is a representation of human life in society related to the types of taboo words which are used to swear. Thus, the main problems in this research can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What types of Taboo words are used in *This is England Movie*?
2. What are the functions of Taboo words uttered by the characters in *This is England Movie*?
3. How are Taboo words can affect the social factors of the characters in *This is England Movie*?

1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this research are related to the problems that have been stated above and aiming to answer those questions, those are:

1. To describe types of Taboo words are used in *This is England Movie*.

2. To find out the functions of Taboo words uttered by the characters in *This is England Movie*.
3. To find out social factors of the characters in *This is England Movie* that is comes because of using Taboo words.

1.4 Reseach Significance

The significances of this research are divided into two purposes. Those are theoretical purpose and practical purpose.

Theoretically, this research is aimed to the readers to show that Taboo Words has limitless interpretation. This research is an encouragement and challenge for the readers to step out of the constructed system and cultural habits when they interpret a text especially in a movie. Thus, the readers can avoid being trapped in the search for the ‘absolute meaning’ of the story. Instead, they can open their mind and be more critical toward any kind of text. Then, this research is also expected to provide the knowledge to the reader in understanding the characteristic of sociolinguistics and taboo words in social life.

Practically, this research is expected to be a competent and helpful source for the English literature students and researchers in comprehending theory of sociolinguistics and taboo words to the application to a literary work especially a movie.

1.5 Previous Study

Many similar studies or analysis of taboo words using this theory have been conducted. The researcher uses some previous studies below:

First one is written by Chunming Gao, a lecturer from School of Foreign Language, Changchun University of Science and Technology, China, entitled “A

Sociolinguistics Study of English Taboo Language” which published by Journal of Theory and Practice in Language Studies, Academy Publisher in 2013. She concerns in her writing towards general survey of linguistics taboo in China like how taboo words usually used there, how people there have point of view towards things that closely related to taboo, and another detail explanation about this topic in general. This journal gives more knowledge to the researcher.

Second one is journal by Amir Ahmad Jafari Baravati from Iran, entitled “Taboo Language and Norms in Sociolinguistics” which published by Journal of Applied Linguistics and Language Research in 2019. This journal also similar with the previous one because it still explains taboo words from sociolinguistics’ perspectives in Iran. Though it looks similar but the content is actually little bit different because people or society used to be surveyed were from different place of the Earth: China and Iran, those have different culture and tradition so the perspectives also would be different.

The last one that the researcher used is from IKIP Budi Utomo Malang, Indonesia, they are M. Sofyan Al Farisi and co who wrote “A Sociolinguistics Analysis of Taboo Words in Alpha Dog Movie” which published by e-journal of IKIP Budi Utomo Malang. The analysis has different content with the researcher’s writing because the data used is gained from different movie which it has different characters, scripts, plot, and many more that absolutely will collect different result at the end.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Key terms are taken from the word in the title of research. These key terms provide to make the reader of the research easier to comprehend about the problem

of the research. Not only to make the reader easier to comprehend the research, but also the key terms provided to avoid misunderstanding to comprehend the research. To prevent misinterpretation the terms that applied in this research, the researcher has the explanation on the terms that require to be explained are:

a. Taboo

Taboo is actually connected with something that is avoided and forbidden to talk about. Allan and Burridge (2006: 01) assert that taboo originates from social restriction on one's behavior which can bring about uneasiness, harm and injury. Since it is resulting in uneasiness, harm, and injury, people in the society are supposed to avoid taboo which has a vulgar sense. To give a clearer explanation, Trudgill (2000: 18) defines taboo in the following way.

Taboo can be characterized as being concerned with behavior which is believed to be supernaturally forbidden or regarded as immoral or improper; it deals with behavior which is prohibited or inhibited in an apparently irrational manner. In language, taboo is associated with things which are not said, and in particular with words and expressions which are not used.

In accordance to the statement above, there is a strong relationship between taboo behavior and taboo language. Both are forbidden because they are regarded as immoral for certain circumstances. Supporting the idea, Fairman (2009: 27) states that every society has its own particular taboo act and taboo words. Taboo acts related to any activities that should be avoided, while taboo words related to any words that should not be uttered. Both are identified with one another since several taboo acts relate to taboo words while others do not.

Communication is very important in our life because people can understand each other through communication. Taboo word is one of linguistic phenomena

which exist in most languages because every member of society has different way to express his thoughts in language.

b. Functions of Taboo Words

Taboo words are usually uttered because there is a reason behind them. According to Wardhaugh (2006: 239), taboo words are disregarded in particular occasion because they have several functions such as to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority. Sometimes people utter taboo words in order to get the attention from the listener. Mc Edward in (Guire, 1973: 5-6) explains that the speakers should gain the interest through the use of strong, powerful language whose connotation can stimulate an instant reaction from the audience.

The use of taboo words in conversation between two people can also mean to show contempt. According to Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (1995: 249) contempt means the impression in which a person or may be something is totally useless and cannot be regarded. In other words, when someone tries to show contempt by using taboo words, he or she will insult the addressee by uttering words that can offend their pride. When someone utters taboo words, he or she may have an intention to provoke a certain response such as violation or anger from others. This is in line with Rothwell (in (Fitzgerald, 2007: 17) who says that verbal obscenity can be the most efficient symbolic process offered to protester intended for inviting chaotic reaction.

c. Sociolinguistics

Language can be used as a tool to build feeling or thinking about something so it can influence the hearers for what it is said by the speaker. Then, language is also as sign of someone's personality for his or her life. Language is also a words that has value of art and contains meaning through good ideas and is usually based on someone's experience or imagination. When people some into speaking there is a communication plays an important role in human's life.

The existence of language cannot be separated from the society. This phenomenon is studied in Sociolinguistics. According to Yule (2010: 254), sociolinguistics is a part of sociolinguistics study which focuses on language which is dealing with social and cultural phenomenon in one society. It usually explores the field of language, society, and things which are related to social sciences, especially psychology, anthropology, and sociology. The idea proposed by Yule is also in line with Trudgill. He states that the study of sociolinguistics is related to cultural phenomenon so that it can affect the way people speak or talk since it is determined by the social context (Trudgill, 2000: 32).

In accordance with those two linguists, Holmes (2013: 01) also says that people who study linguistics will probably concern on describing people's different ways of speaking in different social contexts. Moreover, Holmes argues that sociolinguists also try to investigate the use of language to convey messages. As language functions to convey messages, there must be social interactions between the members of community. Those social interactions can indicate the relationship

of the people who are involved. Thus, sociolinguistics is essential in explaining the interaction between the members of the society.

