

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background, the statement of problem, the research objective, and the research significance.

1.1 Background

Fortunately, we cannot read others people's minds. So, if we want to allow someone access to what we are thinking, we must provide them with clues that they can perceive. Language is a system that connects thoughts, which cannot be heard, seen, or touched, with sounds, letters, manual signs, or tactile symbols (Garvey, 2010:5).

Language has been a major topic of research for well over two centuries. Linguistic research intersects with anthropology, biology, computer science, history, human development, literature, philosophy, politics, psychology, as well as reading and writing. (Garvey, 2010:5).

During the past 50 years, the work of Noam Chomsky has been indisputably influential in its conceptualization of language as “a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements” (Chomsky in Lyons, 1981, p.7). As Lyons (1981, p.7) comments, this definition varied markedly from previous definitions of language in its silence about both the communicative function and the symbolic properties of language; it instead focused on the essential structure of language in a way that was mathematically precise.

In every community, there are certain words considered taboo. These words are not spoken oral least, not spoken in front of the guests in formal conditions and full manners. The English word taboo derives from Tongan *tabu*, which came to notice towards the end of the eighteenth century. According to Radcliffe-Brown:

In the language of Polynesia the word means simply ‘to forbid’, ‘forbidden’, and can be applied to any sort of prohibition. A rule of etiquette, an order issued by a chief, an injunction to children not to meddle with the possession of their elders, may all be expressed by the uses of word taboo. (Radcliffe-Brown 1939: 5f).

Taboo or taboo language is a strong social prohibition against words, objects, actions, or people who are considered undesirable by a group, culture, or society. Taboo violations are usually not acceptable and may be considered offensive. Some actions or habits that are taboo even be prohibited by law and transgressions may lead to harsh sanctions. Taboo can also bring shame, disgrace, and harsh treatment of the surrounding. (Radcliffe-Brown 1939: 6f).

The term taboo is of Polynesian origin taboo on Tongan Archipelagoes. It originally refers to those holy facts or objects which cannot be spoken of or touched and was first noted by Captain James Cook, a British sailor, during his visit to Tonga in 1771. Peter Trudgill defines taboo in following words: 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.” (Trudgill, 2000:18).

In language, taboo is associated with things which are not said and in particular with words and expressions which are not used (Trudgill, 2000:18). Men and women use taboo language differently. In daily life, men tend to use more taboo word compared to women. The belief that women's language is more polite, more refined – in a word, more ladylike – is very widespread and has been current for many centuries (Coates, 2004:13).

Ronald Wardhaugh, the Canadian sociologist, discusses taboo together with euphemism in his book entitled *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. He points out that “taboo is one way in which a society expresses its disapproval of certain kinds of behavior believed to be harmful to its members, either for supernatural reasons or because such behavior is held to violate a moral code” (Wardhaugh, 1984:45). Another anthropologist, Ashley Montagu, holds similar point of view and proves that taboo words are indeed social constructions by citing the fact that not every culture contains taboo language (Montagu, 1967:55).

The object in this research is song lyrics. The researcher will examine about words that are considered taboo in this song lyrics. The definition of song lyrics can be considered as literary work, because the language used in the song lyrics is different from language used in everyday life or can be said full of ambiguity. The song lyrics can be examined in the Pansy Division's album those are which are *Undressed*, *Deflowered*, *File Up*, *Wish I'd Taken Picture*, *More Loving from Our Oven*, *Absurd Pop Song Romance*, *Total Entertainment!*, *The Rocky Horror Punk Rock Show*, *That's So Gay*, *Lost Game & Rare Track*. The problem in this research is the choice of taboo words in Pansy Division Song lyrics.

The previously research is about “Social Background of Taboo Language Expressed in The Movie of American Gangster” by Wina Ratna Amelia (2010). Her research is to analyses apology strategies including types and how apology is used by each character in the scripts of American Gangster. The previously research, researcher takes from Zhou Ningjue journal from Kristianstad University explain about An Analysis of Gender Differences in Using Taboo Language on the Internet. The different both of are Zhou Ningjue used chatting room on internet for object and the researcher take the research with the title is Taboo Language in “Pansy Division’s Song Lyrics” and the object is song lyrics. Finally the writer takes Taboo Language in “Pansy Division’s Song Lyrics” for research topic.

1.2 Statement of Problem

There are many problems in this object who writer wants to analyze this statement of research, writer would like to analyze the problems of Taboo Language in “Pansy Division’s Song Lyrics”, which are:

1. What kinds of verbal taboos are found in “Pansy Division’s song lyrics”?
2. What are the meanings given to verbal taboos found in “Pansy Division’s song lyric”?

1.3 Research Objective

Generally, the purpose the research is to explain and analyze the taboo language. The writer hopes that the result of the research gives promote and reference for the next researcher for Linguistics and generally for English development. Especially, this research is intended:

1. To find out the kinds of verbal taboos in “Pansy Division’s song lyrics”.
2. To given the meaning verbal taboos in “Pansy Division’s song lyrics”.

1.4 Research Significance

The findings of the study are expected to give information and knowledge about taboo language. This study also expected to be useful for readers and those who would like to know more about taboo language. Using semantic theory and pragmatic approach also supported by the theory of taboo language. For other researchers, this study can inspire them to conduct a more in depth research in order to have a better knowledge in understanding the taboo language.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

Taboo Language: can be characterized as being concerned with behaviour 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.

Pansy Division’s Song Lyrics: song lyrics can be considered as literary work, because the language used in the song lyrics is different from language used in everyday life or can be said full of ambiguity.



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