

The branch of science which called to investigate the relationships between language and society is sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is the study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, on the way language is used. As stated by Hudson, (1980, pp. 4-5) sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society. Sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal of a better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function in communication.

Language and society are very closely related in live of human beings. Language is a part of culture, without language, the culture of society would never develop and be materialized (Nababan cited in Rahardjo, 2002:42). All people will always connect with cultural elements of society because language is a cultural event. Society is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes. Language is what the members of particular society speak (Wardough, 2006, p. 1). So, language and society cannot be separated, because language is part of culture and culture is part of society.

According to previous explanations, language is part of culture. Language cannot be separated from culture. Language expresses culture reality which means that word or language can reflect the author's attitude, beliefs and their point of views. The relationship between language and culture is that the structure of language determines the way in which speakers of that language view the world.

In relation to the study of language used in society, this research concerns with one study of sociolinguistics, that is taboo language. Taboo language arises out of

social constraints on the individual's behavior where it can cause discomfort, harm or injury.

Taboo is one way in which a society expresses its disapproval of certain kinds of behavior language believed to be harmful to its members, either for supernatural reasons or because such behavior is held to violate a moral code (Wardhaugh, 1986, p. 230). In society, certain things are not said, not because they cannot be, but because people don't talk about those things or if those things are talked about, they talked about in very roundabout ways.

According to Wardhaugh (1986: 229), taboo is related to the culture meanings, which are expressed in language. It means that language is used to avoid saying certain thing which is considered immoral and improper to the certain thing. Taboo words can also be a way for some people or groups to express what's on their minds. In addition, a taboo word also helps some people to express a sense or things to be disclosed.

Taboo is one of the phenomena of language in human life in a social life. Taboo language in social life is a rude utterance, because it is not proper to be spoken and the utterance that is not polite. But the taboo utterance is also an expression of anger, disappointment and frustration of a person. According to (Rahardjo, 2002: 35), taboo language depends very much on moral values, norms and culture that have grown and developed in one society which exist and agree together. Taboo is one of linguistics phenomena, it occurs in the most languages because every member of the society has different ways to express his/her mind in language.

According to Wardhaugh (2006, p. 239) tabooed subjects can vary widely: sex; death; excretion; bodily functions; religious matters; and politics. Tabooed objects that must be avoided or used carefully can include your mother-in-law, certain game animals, and use of your left hand (the origin of *sinister*). And stated by Timothy Jay (1996), taboo language has many categories, there are cursing, profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, sexual harassment, vulgar language, and name calling and insults.

At that time, taboo is the language commonly used in our daily lives. Nowadays, taboo language has been regarded as a word that used to express our feelings. Taboo language can also be found in western movies are watched by many people in Indonesia. For example, in some American comedy movies, there are some taboo utterances often expressed by some actors or actresses in the movies. Taboo words or utterances which are expressed in the movie have become a common thing in America for it describes present social life of American people and it shows that taboo still exists around us and people believe it as the reality of phenomenon. Therefore, the researchers examined the study of taboo language in the movie which is reflected in the movie *Tropic Thunder*. So, this study will study about taboo utterance through movie *Tropic Thunder*.

Tropic Thunder is a 2008 American action comedy film written, produced, and directed by Ben Stiller, and starring by Ben Stiller himself, Robert Downey, Jr., Brandon T. Jackson, and Jack Black. This movie tells about the making of the Vietnam war fiction movie, stared by Hollywood well-known actors they are Tugg Speedman (Ben Stiller), the actor who began his career faded, and Jeff

Portnoy (Jack Black), a favorite comedian is a drug addict, Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr.), an Australian actor who often gets an Oscar, and Alpa Chino (Brandon T. Jackson) black rapper. In this movie, there are four main character who want to be analyzed; Speedman (S), Lazarus (L), Portnoy (P), and Alpa Chino (AC). Voltz (1964) states that comedy film is freer in expressing language because it has jokes effects. The jokes effects, such as mockery, ludicrous, or funny things whether in words or acts are the components of humor. Comedy film often applies dirty jokes (an analysis of sexual humor) and pornography (the explicit representation of the human body or sexual activity with the goal of sexual arousal and/or sexual relief). Therefore, the researcher chooses comedy film as the object to be analyzed in this study because in comedy film the expression of taboo words is freer than other films. So, the researcher choose *Tropic Thunder* because, it is one of comedy movie in Hollywood.

This study focuses on the taboo utterances used by four main characters in this movie that were found through in the dialogs. The researcher is interest to analyze the various kinds of taboo utterance which are expressed by main characters in the America comedy movie “*Tropic Thunder*” because this movie contains many kind of taboo. The researcher just focus on four main characters, because those four people are the main characters of the movie, so that researcher can focus to study the taboo utterance better. Therefore, the authors chose this film as an object of study document analysis.

It is expected that this research will contribute to the more understanding of taboo language and the purpose of using it. Since understanding taboo, the

people will be know the function of taboo itself, which is to express anger, sadness, and happy. So the point of it is taboo language is to express all our feelings. And also the people can use those words in their proper context in communication. This research may be useful for linguistics students in developing their knowledge about the type and intended use of taboo language. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study entitled **A Study of English Taboo Utterance Used by Main Characters in American Comedy Movie *Tropic Thunder*.**

2.1 Problems of The study

Based on the background of the study, the study is conducted in order to find the answer to the research problems that are being formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of English taboo utterances used by main characters in American comedy movie entitled *Tropic Thunder*?
2. What are the reasons of using taboo utterances by main characters in American comedy movie entitled *Tropic Thunder*?

3.1 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the types of English taboo utterances used in American comedy movie entitled *Tropic Thunder*?
2. To know the reasons of using taboo utterances by main characters in American comedy movie entitled *Tropic Thunder*?

4.1 Definition Key Terms

In order to avoid any misinterpretation, it is important to define the key terms, as follows:

1. **Sociolinguistics:** Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society (Hudson, 1980, pp.4-5)
2. **Taboo words:** Taboo is one way in which a society expresses its disapproval of certain kinds of behavior language believed to be harmful to its members, either for supernatural reasons or because such behavior is held to violate a moral code (Wardhaugh, 1986, p. 230)
3. **Comedy Movie:** Comedy film is freer in expressing language because it has jokes effects such as mockery, ludicrous, or funny things whether in words or acts are the components of humor. (Voltz, 1964)
4. **Tropic Thunder:** Tropic Thunder is a 2008 American action comedy film written, produced, and directed by Ben Stiller, and starring Stiller, Robert Downey, Jr., and Jack Black (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropic_Thunder).