

language is trying to discover how social structure can be better understood through the study of language, e.g., how certain linguistic features serve to characterize particular social arrangements.

Language and social is very closely related, we can socialize with fellow language communities with ease. Through language, we can express all the things we think and feel. Therefore, language is important and vital tool in a social life.

According to Wardaugh (1986, p. 1) *society* is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes, and *language* is what the members of a particular society speak.

2.2 Language and Culture

In our social life, communication is very important. In communicating with others, we use language as principal means. Language is more than just a means of communication. It influences our culture and even our thought processes. In many ways, language plays a role in a culture for identifying which experiences lay in each specific area. Besides, many times, the same experience may lie in both spaces, depending on how the language is used to describe it.

Sapir and Whorf (in Wardaugh, 1986, p.89) said that language determines what we see in the world around us. In other words, language acts like a polarizing lens on a camera in filtering reality; we see the real world only in the categories of our language. Claire Kramsch (1998, p.3) tell about the relation between language and culture. He divided it into three close relationships, first language expresses culture reality. Language is actually the realization of what

one is thinking. We cannot think without language because we actually use language in our mind when we are thinking. The second, language embodies cultural reality, the way in which people use the spoken, written or visual medium itself creates meanings that are understandable to others, it can be through speaker's tone of voice, accent, conversational style, gesture and facial expressions consist of all verbal and non- verbal aspects. The third, language symbolizes cultural reality. It is a system of sign that is seen as having a cultural value; they view their language as a symbol of their social identity.

Worf (1929) claim that 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.

Language is regarded as a set of rules enabling speakers to process information from the outside world or to relate sounds to information (Gumperz, 1971: 222). *Culture* is the know-how that a person must possess to get through the task of daily living (Wardough, 1986, p.211). The relationship between language and culture are very close that each influences the others. The intimate relationship of both of them is strikingly illustrated by the survey, which confirms the view that language and culture cannot exist without each other.

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2.3 Taboo Language

According to Wardaugh (1986, p.239) taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behavior believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame. It is an extremely strong politeness constraint. 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 from Timothy Jay (1996, p.8) taboo language has many categories there are cursing, profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, sexual harassment, vulgarity, and insults. A taboo can be described as “a total or partial prohibition of the use of certain words, expressions, topics, etc., especially in social intercourse.”

A linguistic taboo means that certain words are regarded as offensive language and are avoided in particular contexts. The taboo is expressed not only in form of words, but also in terms of gestures, pictures, attitudes, and behavior.

Taboo words are not new words in a society, but they are part of human behavior that represents meanings. The word taboo was first borrowed from Tongan, Polynesian language, in which it refers to acts that are forbidden or to be avoided. It was published by Captain James Cook in 1777, Cook used taboo to describe the behaviour of Polynesian towards things that were not to be done,

entered, seen or touched. Taboo is not only in the form of pictures, or activities but it can be in the form of language.

Taboo words usually are major concern in our society. In various cultures have different taboos, these rules help people to successfully assimilate into a certain society. While certain taboos are only prevalent in specific cultures, there are some taboos that are thought of as universal, such as swearing, cannibalism, incest, and murder.

2.3.1 Types of Taboo

Taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behavior believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause anxiety, embarrassment, or shame (Wardhaugh, 2006, p.239). "Taboo is one way in which society expresses its disapproval of certain kinds of behaviour believed to be harmful to its members, either for supernatural reasons or because such behaviour is held to violate a moral code" (Wardhaugh, 1986, p. 230).

In classifying types of taboo words, some sociolinguists have been classified taboo words into several types. Wardhaugh (1986) divides taboo words into 8 types based on the meaning:

1. Mother in-Law: this term is used to describe a woman who has an affair with many partners. For example, "motherfucker", "slut".
2. Certain game animals: this term is related to animal(s), the behaviour of animal(s), for example "bitch" and "bull".
3. Sex: this term refers to sexual activities, e.g. "fuck"

4. Death: this term refers to something that people fear to face, such as “go to hell”.

5. Excretion: this term is connected to human excretion, such as “shit”, “piss”.

6. Bodily functions: these terms are related to human’s body or human’s genitals, such as “cunt”, “cock”.

7. Religious matters: these terms are related to God, such as “Gosh!”, “Dolly!” referring to God. “Geel! Jingga! Jeez!” referring to Jesus, or “God damn you”.

8. The left hand: this term refers to the symbol of sexual intercourse by showing the middle finger of the left hand, such as “fuck you”, or “screw you”.

According to Allan, Keith and Kate Burrige (1991) taboo is proscription of behavior that affects everyday life. They classify taboo into several point, there are:

1. Bodies and their effluvia (sweat, snot, feces, menstrual fluid)
2. The organ and acts of sex, micturition and defecation.
3. Diseases, death and killing
4. Naming, addressing, touching and viewing persons and sacred beings, objects and places.
5. Food gathering, preparation and consumption

From those two theories of taboo word types, it can be concluded that taboo word has several types. The types from both theories are almost similar. In short,

taboo words which are considered as one of linguistics variation also varied in its types.

2.4 Taboo Language by Timothy Jay

There are many reasons for people to use taboo language. According to Jay (1999,p.84), people, as a kind of emotional animal have a desire to express their feelings, relieve their negative stress, and establish their identities and status through their speech. Using taboo language can help them to achieve these purposes effectively, as language is a tool used by everyone. The function of taboo words are listed as follows, such as humor, catharsis, or showing the power.

Taboo words can be used to achieve a variety of personal and interpersonal outcomes that may be positive, negative, or inconsequential in terms of their impact on others, although some might argue all uses of taboo words are harmful to some degree. According to Timothy Jay (1996) taboo language has many categories there are cursing, profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, sexual harassment, vulgarity, and insults.

2.4.1 Cursing

One of the most common categories of taboo or "dirty words" is that of cursing. Cursing, according to Timothy Jay, is the words "to invoke harm on another person through the use of certain words or phrases" (Jay, 1996,p.8). When cursing is used, the user probably aims to have it take effect happen in the future.

It is similar to swear but they are different in degree. For example from cursing is *fuck off, eat shit and die.*

2.4.2 Profanity

Profanity is the quality or state of being profane, it can also relate to using profane language or desecration or disrespect toward an object of religious veneration. It can be a word, expression, gesture, or others. It is words or phrases are "based on the church's distinction between secular and religious speech" (Jay, 1996, p. 10). Profanity is usually "unsanctioned" and therein rests the taboo power of the words also to treat something sacred with abuse, irreverence, disrespect, or contempt. According to Jay (1996,p.10) to be profane means to be secular or to be ignorant or intolerant of the guidelines of a particular religious order, but profanity is not a direct attack on the church or religion. The example of profanity is *Jesus Christ! let's go we're late* or *Good God! he's ugly!*

2.4.3 Blasphemy

Profanity and blasphemy are types of speech acts which are both related to religion and often mistaken for one another. However, the difference lies in the way the language treats religion. Profanity does not directly critique the church or religion while "blasphemy aims directly at the church and religious figures" (Jay, 1996, p. 12). Blasphemous expressions, on the other hand, are a deliberate use of religious terminology to denigrate God, religious icons, and religious institutions.

Blasphemy can provoke strong reactions where speakers labeled as blasphemers can be ostracized or mortally threatened. The example of blasphemy is *goddamn*.

2.4.4 Obscenity

As Jay (1992,p.5) states that *Obscenity* is a legal term and refers to matters dealing with sexual activity used in public setting, for example in a movie. The implication of it that is anything can be appealed to base, and depraved tastes. The term is most often used in a legal context to describe expressions of words, images, actions that offend the prevalent sexual morality of the time. Jay describes obscenity as something that is “designed to incite lust or depravity” (1992,p.5), and is usually sexual in nature, for example *fuck*, *shit*, and *fucking*. Jay further explains that “[o]bscene words are considered the most offensive and used in public media”.

2.4.5 Sexual Harassment

According to Timothy Jay sexual harassment is unwanted sexual remarks, dirty jokes, references to one’s appearance, or sexual behavior. This term is constantly changing in its definition. In his work, Timothy Jay concludes that sexual harassment includes “comments about the one’s sexual behavior, sexual looseness, or sexual preferences; references to body parts; references that denigrate a person based on gender” Jay (1996,p.18). Example of sexual harassment is *boob*, *cock*, and *cunt*.

2.4.6 Vulgarly

Vulgar is the adjective refers to the people characteristics and showing lack of good quality in style or appearance. Therefore it was indicated into bad moral or depraved, lacking in taste or cultivation, offensive, and also obscene.

Vulgarity is generally also refers to the characteristics of masses. It is lack of taste and tends to bad attitudes such discriminate or insult one to others.

Vulgarity is very much a socially constructed phenomenon and is considered a "marker of social status". Vulgar words depend on the context:

"Some communities may produce more vulgarities than others, depending on prevailing social, intellectual, and economic conditions and values operating in the community" (Jay 1996, p. 20). The example of vulgarity is *motherfucker*, *bitch*, and *bastard*.

2.4.7 Insults

Insult or a slur as it is sometimes called, is a clear verbal attack on another person and is powered by real or imagined characteristics being denoted on the target (Jay 1992,p.8). There are subcategories of insults, such as social and racial insults.

Like cursing, such words "are spoken with intent to harm, demean, or denigrate the listener" (Jay 1996, p. 22). Racial slur would be *nigger* or *kike* (Jay 1992,p.8).

This study used theory of Taboo Language from Timothy Jay (1996) to answer the problems study about the types of taboo utterance that used by four main characters in comedy movie entitled *Tropic Thunder*. In this study, the researcher choose theory taboo by Jay, because this theory very appropriate with

this movie. Beside this theory appropriate to researching the comedy movie Tropic thunder, theory of Jay also has a more specific category of taboo, whereas the others theory are more general in classifying the taboo category, so that it is making the researcher easier to classify taboo word in this movie.

2.5 Reason of using Taboo

The word taboo is generally considered the use of bad language, a form of language that is unnecessary and damaging our language. Taboo words sounded unpleasant and uneducated, and the word can be eliminated. However, many people still use the taboo words in communicating and expressing feelings, so the word taboo continues to exist and became a social phenomenon even be a sign of closeness a group. Everyone have reason when use taboo word, based on Andersson & Trudgill (1990,p.8), they are three reason use taboo word, and the first is psychological reason, linguistics reason, and social reason.

The first is psychological reason, according to Andersson & Trudgill (1990,p.53) every day in our lives, we get angry or frustrated when unpleasant, unexpected events occur or things in general do not go according to plans. In these situations, the normal reaction is to release or express these strong feelings in one way or another – we may stamp our feet, hit a nearby object or simply let out a more or less forceful “argh”. However, following upon frustration or anger, arising from an unexpected event or shock, most people resort to swearing for an immediate vent of emotion (Andersson & Trudgill 1990,p.53). Swearing or taboo is the verbal expression, or venting, of the aggressiveness which follows upon

frustration. Therefore the desire to swear will always be experienced under conditions which give rise to the frustration-aggression syndrome” (in Andersson 1985,p.111). From the previous explanation, psychological reasons are show the taboo utterances that caused by frustration feeling, which from an unexpected event or shock, most people prefer to swearing for showing emotion directly.

Secondly is social reason, not all taboo is prompted by frustration or aggression, nor is taboo always unintentional. For instance, we may utter taboo to assert our identity in a group, to shock, to amuse, to insult, to indicate friendship, to mark social distance or social solidarity etc. Social motives for utter taboo differ from psychological reason in that they involve more than one person, as social swearing depends on an audience to have any real function. Therefore, social reason is a reason use taboo utterances for showing the power, and argue with someone who can give effect with the hearer or other people.

The last is linguistics reason, according to Andersson, we are free to use any of the tens of thousands of words in our vocabulary, as long as they convey the message we wish to communicate. So, from a purely theoretical and linguistic standpoint, we could say for example “What a very nice rocking chair” just as well as “What a fucking nice rocking chair” – both would be just as acceptable (1985,p.122). We choose what we want to say from a vast range of possibilities our language allows us, and these choices will always have an effect on the person we are communicating with. Therefore, linguistics reason is using of taboo utterances which the taboo can be used like any others words, and that taboo didn't have effect for the hearer.

This theory of Andersson & Trudgill (1990,p.8)used by the research to answer the second question of problem of the studies, that is the reason of used taboo utterance by the main characters in the movie comedy entitled *Tropic Thunder*. The researcher choose Andersson and Trudgill theory to answer the second problems of the study because this theory appropriate for this research.

2.6 Comedy Movie

State from ardictionary.com movie is a form of entertainment that enacts a story by a sequence of images giving the illusion of continuous movement; "they went to a movie every Saturday night"; "the film was shot on location". Comedy comes from the Greek word "Komidia". Greeks and Romans confined the word "comedy" to descriptions of stage-plays with happy endings. Comedy is any humorous discourse or work generally intended to amuse by creating laughter, especially in television, film, and stand-up comedy.

Comedy film or movie is a genre of film in which the main emphasis is on humor. They are designed to elicit laughter from the audience. Comedies are mostly light-hearted dramas and are made to amuse and entertain the audiences.

The comedy genre humorously exaggerates situations, the way of speaking, the action and characters. Comedy film is different from drama or action film whether in script or expression. As 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 can entertain the audience and make them laugh because

it makes everybody fun by the jokes effects, ridiculous, and possible taboo forms too

2.7 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. The main plot revolves around a group of prima donna actors who are making their fictional Vietnam War film. When their frustrated writer and director decide to drop them in the middle of a jungle, they are forced to rely on their acting skills in order to survive the real action and danger. Also written by Justin Theroux and Etan Cohen, the film was produced by Red Hour Films and distributed by DreamWorks Pictures through Paramount Pictures.

Movie Tropic Thunder is an American comedy movie which tells about a war film, the background of Vietnam. The film is played by 4 actors Hollywood, Tugg Speedman is an actor whose career is fading, Kirk Lazarus 5 Oscar-winning actor, Jeff Portnoy is comedian who always behaved in polite and he is drug addiction, and finally a rapper Alpa Chino. However, the film is threatened to fail because the producer named Less Grossman will stop the film. This is caused by the film director named Damien Cockburn could not direct the actors to act well, causing the dynamite used as exploding effect and destroy the set and spent a lot of money.

Therefore, Damien and scriptwriter named Four Leaf Tayback who do not have hands, plans to bring the actors into the jungle to perform an actual, real acting, and only in the provide by weapons, maps, and some of the bullets is also a camera for the filming. But unexpectedly turns out they landed the forest which is the region where the guerrilla is dark guerrilla Asia's largest producer of marijuana. This is where the actors in the test in acting and face the real enemy.

2.8 Previous Studies

Several studies have been conducted in dealing with taboo words from many perspectives. The first study is a thesis by Suprapti Handayani (2007). Her study was about "Language Taboo Expressed in American Comedy Film 'Deuce Bigalow'". This study was a descriptive qualitative research as it was concerned with the description of taboo words or utterances expressed in Deuce Bigalow film, and the context in which the taboo words were expressed. This research was using ethno methodological theory because in getting the data of taboo word, the researcher focused on analyzing the conversation or dialog of the characters in the film. The result of the study showed that the taboo words expressed in the film were classified into taboo obscene related to sexuality, taboo insult referred to verbal and behavioral insult, and the last was taboo profane that mostly related to religion. All these taboo words were expressed in many contexts; in the meeting room, at home, in the office, and mostly in the public area, such as in the beach, parks, and cafe. The most taboo words were uttered by the characters are to express emotion, anger, happiness, and feel amazed of things.

The second study is thesis by Nurillaili Rahmawati (2010). Her study was about “Taboo Expressed in *The Hangover*”. This research investigated the kinds of taboo utterances and the context when the taboo expressed in “*The Hangover*”.

The purposes of the research were to get the knowledge of the kinds of taboo utterances and to know in detail the context when the taboo expressed in “*The Hangover*”. She applied two theories; theory of Wardhaugh to answer the first focus of the study in describing kinds of taboo words and the SPEAKING theory of Hymes (only focuses on Setting and Scene, Participant, End, Key, and Norm) to help answering the second focuses of the study for describing the context when expressing taboo words in “*The Hangover*”.

This study has similarity with previous studies the first is discusses and researching the types of taboo words in a movie. The second is the object of this study is the same that is movie. Yet, this study also has difference that is the theory which is used to analyze. In Handayani, the researcher is using ethno methodological theory to getting the data of taboo word. But, in this study, researchers used the theory of Timothy Jay to answer the first question in the objective of study. In addition, in Rahmawati, she used speaking theory of Hymes to help answering the context when expressing taboo word. But, in this study, the researcher using Andersson & Trudgill’s theory to answer the second question of problems of study about the reasons for using taboo words in the movie comedy entitled *Tropic Thunder*.

The benefits of both previous studies for this study are the researcher can understand how to analyze taboo in movie. Previous studies were used to compare

theory used of this study with both previous studies, because this study has different theory to answer the problems of the study.

