

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the research background, the research questions, the research objectives, the problem limitation, the research significance, and the definition of key terms. All sections which have been mentioned above are discussed as follows.

A. Background

Language is the crucial thing in communication as a tool to share ideas, express feelings, and show emotions, whether in spoken or written form. As stated by Nurhayati (2016: 1), language is employed to create meaningful communication between people. In spoken form people can directly have communication face to face for discussing something like have discussion in office, have presentation at class, have small talk with family, and give speech in public. In written form, language is expressed in non-fiction books such as a pamphlet, manual book, and encyclopedia. It is also expressed in fiction books as a novel, comic, and short story. Language is also used to convey what people want, like writing letter for their family and writing poem for expressing their feelings.

Communication is quite important in human life. It will make people understand each other in society. As stated by Pearson (1985: 14), communication can be said to be an interaction media that people use to negotiate certain issues. Communication can be achieved successfully if the listeners understood the

information given by the speakers. On the contrary, communication can be failed if there is a misunderstanding between the speakers and the listeners.

In communication, people have different ways in using language to express their feelings and thoughts. According to Chaika (1982: 2), people use language to express or hide their personal background, character, and identity without realizing that they are actually doing so. Thus, people have right for choosing their own ways to create their own identity. They can choose whether uttering polite or impolite words to talk. They utter polite words in daily conversation, but usually utter the taboo words when get a trouble.

As the way to express emotive and logical thought, people can use language to show their feeling and thinking toward something. They can show their emotions such as amazement, hatred, and annoyance. When people are in such condition, they usually utter some words, gestures, and expressions that considered as rude and vulgar. This case called as taboo words in linguistics as one of linguistics phenomenon that occurs in the most languages. Linguistics itself is a study of language that dealing with language form, language meaning, and language in context.

Some words in society are considered taboo that should not be used. The word *taboo* is borrowed from Tongan, a language of Polynesian, which came to the attention of the late eighteenth century. According to Wardaugh (2006: 239), taboo is the prohibition in a society of any behavior that is believed to be harmful to use by its member that it would cause trouble and disgraceful. Taboo words are closely related to impoliteness. Taboo itself refers to some things that are

forbidden. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (1995: 1213) defines that taboo is a religious and cultural custom that forbid people from doing, touching, and using conversation about certain matters.

The emergence of taboo words depends on the norms, cultures, and moral values of certain society. Taboo words exist in most languages including English because people in society have different ways to express their feelings and thoughts. Many taboo words exist in English can be found such as *fuck*, *motherfucking*, *damn*, and many others. As international language, English brings strong impact in real life. In Indonesia, many young generation utter taboo words even they used for showing their anger or only for getting attention from others. Nurhayati (2016: 60) states that Indonesia has many varieties of languages as a part of culture. In Javanese, people usually utter taboo words from Javanese such as *jancuk*, *asu*, and *damput*. They also utter taboo words from English such as *fuck*, *damn*, and *shit*.

Taboo words can be considered as a harsh expression which is forbidden to use. Not only people in lower class or lower educational background that used taboo words, but also people in high class or high educational background do so. They utter taboo words for expressing their strong feelings. Some of them believe that uttering taboo words can make the communication go smoothly.

Nowadays, people get familiar with taboo words. Taboo words can be found in movies, books, and song lyrics. In general, taboo words are used in daily life, especially in informal situation. The rising of taboo words in communication can impose discomfort and injury. Besides, taboo words can provoke different

responses from people. Some people feel fine but some feel hurt. When people get hurt, it will mess up the communication.

Talking about movie, it is a real reflection of human life. It considered as an important art because it entertains people from the story. Some people prefer to watch movies than reading books. According to Turner (1999: 100), movie has become a popular art because it has been known by people. Movies not only can inspire individuals, but also can create people's bad habits.

There are good movies and bad movies exist in this world. Good movies usually bring good and valuable lessons for public. Besides, bad movies usually have less value and bring bad messages for public. Hence, movies influenced people's behavior so much, whether good or bad.

Here, the researcher uses a movie entitled *Straight outta Compton* as the subject of the research. *Straight outta Compton* is a movie directed by F. Gary Gray. It tells the true story of five young men create hip-hop music inspired by injustice in America. Their group called as N.W.A (Niggaz With Attitudes). This movie tries to show that people in the real life in America treat *nigga* as minority with full of harassment, intimidation, and discrimination.

In this movie, the researcher found the characters uttered taboo words such as *fuck, nigga, bitch, pussy, ass*, and many others. This movie is chosen because this is a newest movie (2015) ranks fifth in the list of using f-words based on <https://m.imdb.com>. Actually if we could take a bright side to this movie, it tells us that songs are created for real life reflection. However, freeness of speech does not mean using vulgar, obscene, and abusive language in a public place.

So far, there are several studies about taboo words that have been conducted by some researchers. The first previous study is a thesis written by Fika Nur Anggita (2015) entitled “A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Taboo Words in *Bad Teacher* Movie” from English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts Yogyakarta, State University. She found four types and four functions of taboo words. She found the dominant type of taboo word is obscenity and for the dominant function is to show contempt. She applied descriptive qualitative supported by quantitative method to present fixed percentages in numerical form.

The second previous study is a journal written by Ni Luh D.S.G and Gede Budiasa (2018) entitled “Taboo Words in Movie *Sequels 21* and *22 Jump Street*” from English Department, Faculty of Arts, Udayana University. They found four types and four functions of taboo words. They found the dominant type of taboo words is obscenity. They did not focus on the dominant function of taboo words. They applied qualitative supported by quantitative method to present fixed percentages in numerical form.

The next previous study is a journal written by Kadek Dwi Indrayasa (2018) entitled “The Use of Taboo Words in the Film *Dirty Grandpa*” from English Department, Faculty of Arts, Udayana University. He found ten types and six functions of taboo words. He applied descriptive qualitative method.

The last previous study is a journal written by Dewi Putri Rahmayani and Fitrawati (2018) entitled “Analysis Types and Functions of Taboo Words in *The Wolf of Wall Street* Movie” from English Departmen, Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Padang. They found three types and three functions of

taboo words. The dominant type of taboo words in the movie is obscenity. For the dominant function of taboo word is to creation of strong interpersonal. They applied qualitative and quantitative research.

This research has strong relation with a thesis written by Fika Nur Anggita (2015) and a journal written by Ni Luh D.S.G and Gede Budiasa (2018) since the theories used to analyze the types and functions of taboo words are same. Both of them applied qualitative supported by quantitative method to present fixed percentages in numerical form. Even though they used different movies but the results they found are same. Both of them found that the dominant type of taboo words is obscenity. In this research, the researcher interested to analyze the same topic by using same theories, but she takes a different movie. Using different movie means having different context, so the results also will be different. The researcher would like to analyze the types and functions of taboo words in the different movie called *Straight outta Compton* movie by applying descriptive qualitative.

When people utter taboo words, there must be a reason that lies behind it depends on the meaning meant by the speakers. Some people utter taboo words because they want to do so, but some of them try to get attention from others. Sometimes they utter English taboo words without knowing the meaning. They just imitate what they have listened then utter English taboo words freely.

Nowadays, public awareness of the importance of English as a major tool of communication has increased. (Nurhayati et al, 2018: 258). In English teaching learning process, the use of English taboo words is significant to be introduced

and taught to students. So students can mind their words either they are in trouble or not. Based on this consideration, the researcher is interested in analyzing taboo words in *Straight outta Compton* movie as the application of language in real life, especially on the types and functions of taboo words used in the movie. So, the researcher takes this research entitled “Taboo Words in *Straight outta Compton* Movie”.

B. Research Problems

The problems of this research are:

1. What types of taboo words are used in *Straight outta Compton* movie?
2. What are the functions of taboo words used in *Straight outta Compton* movie?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are:

1. To know the types of taboo words used in *Straight outta Compton* movie.
2. To know the functions of taboo words used in *Straight outta Compton* movie.

D. Significance of the Study

The researcher expects this study to be useful for:

1. Students

By understanding the feature of taboo words, students can be more aware that English have many taboo words usually uttered in daily life especially in informal situation. Thus, the students are expected to be able to use English wisely in daily communication with native speakers.

2. Teachers

By understanding the feature of taboo words, teachers can help students to understand about the types and functions of taboo words. Besides, teachers can prevent the students not to talk taboo words in society.

3. Future Researchers

This study can be a reference for future researchers of English Department students who are interested in linguistics in the sub-field Pragmatics.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study only focuses on taboo words used by the characters in conversation of *Straight outta Compton* movie. Taboo words used in songs of the movie scene are ignored since it may be difficult to find the exact meaning of the function of taboo words without knowing the context. Taboo words in the conversation uttered by the characters of that movie may help the researcher understands the function of taboo words that used.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The researcher provides some terms to avoid misunderstanding about the concept used in this study. Those are defined as follows:

1. Taboo

Oxford Advanced Learner's English-Chinese Dictionary (Sixth edition 2004) explains that taboo is a culture or custom that does not allow a person to do, use, or talk about a certain matter because one considers offending or embarrassing. In short, taboo is something that is forbidden to talk, touch, and do because of restrictions on the culture and religion of certain societies.

2. Taboo Word

Taboo words are considered as offensive words that refer to people's race or sex (*Oxford Advanced Learner's English-Chinese Dictionary*, 2004). It can be said that taboo words are words that are generally not talked about since they can make people uncomfortable.

Battistella (2005: 72) proposed four types of taboo words. They are epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. Epithet is related to slur, such as *bitch* or *fag*. It also refers to race, ethnicity, gender, disabilities, and appearance. Profanity is a kind of religious cursing, such as *hell* or *damn*. Vulgarity is used to show the expression containing excretory organ and sexual anatomy, such as *ass* and *dick*. Besides, Obscenity refers to words that mention sexual activity and excretion. The words belong to obscenity such as *fuck* and *shit*.

When people utter taboo words, there must be a reason that lies behind it. 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 aggressive or provocative, and to mock authority.

3. Movie

A movie is a visual communication to entertain people to describe a condition of life. It can make people cry, laugh, tired, excited, scared and more since it has kinds genre like comedy, romantic drama, action, and many others. In short, movie is indirect form of entertainment that influences both good and bad in life.

4. *Straight outta Compton* Movie

Straight outta Compton is a 2015 American drama directed by F. Gary Gray that presents the real story of the group N.W.A (Niggaz With Attitudes). It tells about five young men that show their experiences into hip-hop music with vulgar lyrics. In this movie, police are shown treating innocent black men badly. This movie informs us about discrimination and persecution in America. Besides, it shows the rappers' struggle to shout out the justice.