

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Languages has several functions, generally people use language to communicate their intention to others. According to Nurhayati (2016), language is employed to create meaningful communication between people. Specifically, language is used by people to convey messages or send information in order to make the conversation activities run smoothly. Language has other functions, there are to share information such as news or interesting activities. Chaika (1982:2) stated that people use language to reveal or conceal personal identity, character, and background without realizing that they are actually doing so.

Communication is important in human life. Without communication, people in society will not be able to understand each other since they don't have social contact. Pearson (1985:14) stated communication can be said to be an interaction media that people use to negotiate certain issues. Communication can be achieved successfully listeners understood the information given by whose spoken. Communication can be failed if there is a misunderstanding between the speakers and the listeners.

Therefore, every person has their own way to choose the language variation they used. They can use language to show their feeling and thinking about something. People can show their emotions such as amazed, happy, angry, sad, etc.. Some people may used strong impact language when they were sad or angry. 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 feelings is by using taboo words. People usually saying taboo words to

swear because those are the strongest way to express the dissatisfaction. Sometimes, they emphasize people's real intention.

The first taboo terms was introduced by Captain Cook in the 18th century when he was on Tahiti. Taboo words in linguistics is the one of linguistics phenomenon that occurs in the most languages. According to Allan and Burridge (2006: 2-3), taboo is a Tongan term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous and therefore it must be avoided. Some words in society are considered taboo that should not be used. Taboo words are closely related to impoliteness, its refers to something that are forbidden. The example of taboo's case can be seen in *Nguni* societies in Africa. In *Nguni*, its forbidden for a woman to mention her husband or father-in-law's name directly. If she violates the rule, she would be get punishment by the rule in the society.

Taboo words exist in most language including English, because people in society have different ways to express their feelings, many taboo words in English that often talked were *fuck, shit, damn, and etc.* as an international languages, English brings strong impact in real life. Nurhayati (2016:60) states that Indonesia has many varieties of language 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*.

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 and habit. Society believed that people with lower educational background must have a bad habit and bad words because the way people speak is an indicator of their social background. But, in the other hand, the

assumption is not all true. 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 people are not merely uttered taboo words because they want to do so. Sometimes they speak taboo words for attracting attention from other people or to show their contempt. Some people believe that uttering taboo words can make the communication go smoothly.

In this era, people get familiar with taboo words, it can be found in books, movies, song lyrics and at daily interaction especially informal situation. Taboo words in movie was exist in this world. The movies with taboo words sometimes have less value and bring bad messages for public. Hence, movies influenced people's behaviour whether good or bad. Some young generations believed that used taboo words as their language in daily interaction is cool, but it is totally not. Taboo words in communication can impact discomfort and injury for the listener. But it can provoke different responses from people. Some people feel okay but some people get hurt. When people get hurt, it'll mess up the communication and can have a fatal effect.

There are several studies about taboo words that have been conducted by some researchers. The first previous study is a journal written by Kadek Dwi Indayasa (2018) entitled "The Use of Taboo Words in the Film *Dirty Granpa*" from English Department, Faculty of arts, Udayana University. He found ten types and six functions of taboo words and he applied descriptive qualitative method.

The second 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 Department, 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

The next 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 applied qualitative supported by quantitative method to present fixed percentages in numerical form.

The last previous study is a thesis written by Fika Nur Anggita (2015) entitled “A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Taboo Words in *Bad Teacher* movie” from English Education Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Yogyakarta State University. She found four functions and four types of taboo words. Obscenity is the most appearing type in this movie. The character in this movie used obscenity to show the disrespect. She applied qualitative and quantitative research.

Based on this consideration, the researcher was interested to analyse taboo words phenomenon in a movie especially the types of taboo words used and the functions of taboo words uttered by the characters in the movie. In this study, the researcher used a movie entitled *21 Jump Street* as the source of the research. In *21 Jump Street* movie, the characters frequently use taboo words in their conversations so that utterances can be analysed easily. Moreover, the characters in *21 Jump Street* movie mostly come from people with higher educational background. The main character were an undercover cop to catch the criminals. Therefore, it is interesting to analyse that use of taboo words by unique

characters and have a good educational background. So, the researcher choose this research entitled “An analysis of taboo words in *21 Jump Street* movie”

This research has strong relation with a journal written by Dewi Putri Rahmayani and Fitrawati (2018) and a thesis written by Fika Nur Anggita (2015) since the theories used to analyze the types and functions of taboo words are same. Both of the applied qualitative supported by quantitative method to present fixed percentage in numerical form. Both of them found the dominant type of taboo words in obscenity. In this research, the researcher interested to analyze the same topic by using same theories, but in a different movie. The researcher would like to analyze the types and functions of taboo words in *21 Jump Street* movie by applying descriptive qualitative.

In English teaching learning process, the use of English taboo words is significant to be introduced and taught to students. So, the students can mind their words either they are in trouble or not. Based on this consideration, the researcher was interested to analyze taboo words phenomenon in real life, especially the types of taboo words used and the functions of taboo words uttered by the characters in the movie. So, the researcher takes this research entitled “An Analysis of Taboo Words in *21 Jump Street* Movie”

B. Research Questions:

1. What types of taboo words are used in *21 Jump Street* movie?
2. What are the functions of taboo words used in *21 Jump Street* movie?

C. Objective of the Research

The objectives of this research are:

1. To know the types of taboo words used in *21 Jump Street* movie.
2. To know the functions of taboo words used in *21 Jump Street* movie.

D. Significance of the Research

The researcher expects this study to be used 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 used as a valuable reference in investigating the same subject.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

This study focused on taboo words used by the characters in conversation of *21 Jump Street* movie. Taboo words in conversation uttered by the characters of the movie may help the researcher understand the function of taboo words that used.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid mis-understanding and mis-interpretation among the readers, it is necessary to clarify some of the terms used in this study.

1. Taboo Word

According to Wardaugh (2006:239), taboo is the prohibition in a society of any behaviour that is believed

to be harmful to use by its member that it would cause trouble and disgraceful.

Battistella (2005: 72) proposed four types of taboo words. They are epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. Epithet 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*. Then, Obscenity refers to words that mention sexual activity and excretion such as *fuck* and *shit*.

It means that people using taboo words because people in society have different ways to express their feelings. But in other way, taboo words can make a trouble and disgraceful.

2. Movie

According to Hornby(2006:950) movie means a series of moving picture recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at cinema/movie. Movie has kinds of genre like comedy, romantic, horror, action and etc.

3. *21 Jump Street* movie

21 Jump Street movie is a 2012 American buddy cop action comedy film directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, written by Jonah Hill and Michael Bacall. The movie tells about the undercover cop who catch the criminals. The characters frequently use taboo words in their conversations so that utterances can be analysed easily. Moreover, the characters in *21 Jump Street* movie mostly come from people with higher educational background.