

AN ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORDS IN WILD CHILD MOVIE.

Mas Darul Ihsan

Literature Faculty, Universitas Gresik, East Java

ABSTRACT

The author explores the form of taboo words used by the characters in Wild Child movie and the differences taboo words used between British and American in movie. The movie tells about a young rich girl's life who has name is Poppy Moore. She is an American and has a best life, but there is a problem with her fellowship. It causes her mother was gone when she was child. She always gets everything what she wants and doing anything. Her father and little sister are very sad about her habits and attitudes, so that her father decide to send her to Abbey Mount School, England. This study used descriptive qualitative as the method for describing the current condition in movie. The data were in the form of utterances, and the contexts of the data were the dialogues uttered by the characters in movie. The sources of the data were the video movie of Wild Child movie and its transcript. The data were collected by selecting dialogues containing taboo words after watching the movie and matching the transcript with the video. The first instrument of this study was the author, and the second instrument was a data sheet.

The results of this study are stated as follows. First, the form of taboo words occur in the characters' utterances in Wild Child movie. Second, the the differences taboo words used between British and American in this movie.

Keywords: taboo words, Wild Child movie

Introduction

Communication is an important role in social life. No communication, people in the society will not be able to understand each other since they do not have any social contact. Social contact is the foundation to build strong connection among people in their life. Social interaction is a means to transact the business of social world which can also affirm participants' identities and also transmit cultures to others (Liddicoat, 2007). Therefore, people need to have language as a means of communication to make a social contact functioned and transmitted properly.

Language has several functions as a means of communication. Commonly, people use language to communicate each others. Every person has their own way to select the variation language which can confirm one's identity. Some people may prefer to use bad language or taboo words that has a strong impact when

they are sad or angry, which is actually inappropriate to use. People usually produce taboo words to say strongest way to express their annoyance. Taboo is a term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous language and must be avoided (Allan and Burrige, 2006). In this case, i.g., in Indonesia, it is impolite for the younger people to mention the older people name directly. If it is happened, it will be punished by the rule in the society. In every culture, there are both taboo acts which are things that are not supposed to do and not supposed to say. Both are related to each other because some taboo act have corresponding taboo words, while others not (Fairman, 2009). However, there are other words that are considered as taboo while the action they denote is not considered as taboo. When people talk about sex, it is often considered as taboo while the act itself is not forbidden if it is done

by the appropriate person in suitable place and time.

The essence of taboo words can be seen from various sources such as in movies, song lyrics, TV, and even more in social media. However, it is caused by the fact that some people believe that employing taboo words is an appropriate way to express a strong feeling and emotion, especially in the form of swearing. Based on this consideration, the author is excited to analyze the forms of taboo words used in a movie and the difference taboo words used in British and American in this movie. In conducting the study, the author chooses a movie as the source of data rather than conducting a kind of field study.

The author uses a movie entitled *Wild Child* as the source of the study. In this movie, the characters frequently use taboo words in dialogs so that the utterances can be analyzed easily. Moreover, the characters in this movie mostly come from school life background. Therefore, it is attractive to analyze the use of taboo words by the characters that have a good educational background. Hence, it can provide a good example of the occurrence of taboo words in well-educated society.

The Focus of this Study

The used of taboo words will trigger a problem for many people if they do not understand the meaning and the functions of taboo words. Hence, the author is interested to analyze the problem that may happen through a movie. This movie is very attractive to be analyzed since it has so many uncensored taboo words so that it can be easily analyzed. Hence, the author finds some problems which are very attractive to be explored. The first problem is related to the forms of taboo words. Since the characters in *Wild Child* movie frequently produce

taboo words in dialogs such as fuck and shit it is very attractive to analyze the types of taboo words. The second problem that is the difference the used of taboo words in American and British based on the movie.

Next, the contrast problem that can be identified related to the use of taboo words in this movie is about social status. There is an assumption that taboo words are mostly uttered by lower class people with a lower educational background. However, in this movie, the characters that have good educational background still use taboo words. Therefore, it is attractive to analyze the occurrence of taboo words uttered by those people who have good educational background.

Significance of the Study

Based on the background and the objectives of the study, the author expects that the study will contribute a great significance both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the study finding will give additional information to the other linguistic authors. Practically, the study will give some benefits for certain parties such as, to the university, this study useful for a sociolinguistics material; to other authors, this study can be used as a valuable reference in investigating the same subject; to readers will have new knowledge about taboo words especially about the types of taboo words and the functions of taboo words in conversation. Moreover, the readers will be able to understand that taboo words are bad forms of language that cannot be spoken in any situation.

Research Method

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method, since it involved the collection of data for the purpose of describing the existing condition. In this method focuses on cultural, social, personal identity and its goal is more descriptive than predictive (Johnson, 2009).

Being more detail, this study used content analysis method because the author thought that it was an appropriate method for textual investigation. The analysis of the study was based on classification on data sheets. The data sheets included words or sentences which contained taboo words.

Findings and Discussion

In this part, the results of the study are presented in detail to answer the problems. The results consist of some words and phrases. The data are divided into two groups. The first group is abusive words and the second is abusive phrases, then continue with taboo words influenced by culture between American and British.

1. Group 1 – Abusive words.

In abusive word, especially in literally abusive, the character in this movie used taboo words in 24 times such as: shit (*vulgar term for “feces”*), bitch (*a female dog*), loser (*someone who is never successful in life, work, or relationship*), yawn (*to open your mouth wide and breathe in deeply because you are tired and bored*), trashier (*criticize someone or something severely*), gross (*spoken very disgusting to look at or think about something*), ridiculous (*silly or unreasonable*), asshole (*spoken not polite, someone who you think is stupid and annoying*), screw (*force someone to do something by threatening them*), slovenly (*dirty, messy, and careless*), fool (*a stupid person that annoys you*

or causes problem), slutty (*Slovenly or immoral woman*), whore-y (*a woman who has sex for money*), snog (*if two people snog, they kiss each other*), morons (*an insulting word for someone who is very stupid*), crazy (*a person do a stupid something*), idiot (*someone who has done something stupid*), stupid (*showing a lack of good sense or good judgment*), thick (*not intelligent*), dweeb (*slang: a week slightly strange person who is not popular or fashionable*), daft (*silly, stupid, or crazy*), absurd (*completely stupid or unreasonable, especially in a silly way*), and insane (*completely stupid or crazy*),

In abusive word, especially in contextually abusive, the character in this movie used taboo words in 12 times such as: uncool (*not fashionable, attractive, and relaxed*), nightclub (*a place where people can drink alcohol and dance, that is open late at night*), bronco (*wild horse from the western U.S*), medieval (*old-fashioned and not acceptable or not useful*), mental (*affecting the mind or happening in the mind*), weird (*unusual and very strange*), wisecracks (*a clever funny remark or reply*), target (*An object, person, or place that is deliberately chosen to be attacked*), cerberus (*the dog that guards the gates of hell*), trouble (*someone who deliberately causes problems*), gay (*someone who is homosexual*), and concussed (*An injury to the brain that makes you lose consciousness*).

2. Group 2 – Abusive phrases.

In abusive phrases, especially in literally abusive, the character in this movie used taboo phrases in 12 times such as: “Like I give a shit”, expressed uncaring and resentful feelings; “You utter moron”, express a feeling irritated; “A grade one a-hole with a severe attitudinal problem”, expressed feeling angry, irritated, and resentful;

“Hierarchy is Teachers, prefects, scholars, dogs, vermin, Americans”, expressed insulting to someone; “Ungly losers”, expressed to insult someone because someone feels irritated; “Total asshole”, expressed the feeling that someone has a trait and bad behavior; “Shit-brain”, expressed an angry feeling to someone; “Really stupid ones”, expressed a feeling upset, but in a joking situation; “A dwarf prostitutes”, expressed a feeling insulted someone because of anger and disgust about the appearance of a person who is too hot; “A bunch of ugly losers”, expressed a feeling of angry to someone; “Whoop-ass”, it is used to kindle the spirit in a game; and “Horridious cow”, it is used to reveals the feelings of angry and disappointed to someone.

In abusive phrases, especially in constextually abusive, the character in this movie used taboo phrases in 14 times such as: “Don’t make the cut”, it used to insult someone; “Your bleeping business”, it express a feeling irritated; “All-around sick”, expressed madness a person in terms of sex; “I am going out of my mind”, expressed a feeling bored to someone or something in her environment; “Bloody English”, expressed sarcasm and insults to someone; “Sweaty Upper Lip Alert”, expressed insult to someone who really wanted to kiss; “Rotting pig’s vomit”, expressed insults to a person caused by feelings of anger and disgust; “Hook up”, expressed underestimate feeling to someone; “Appearing in a window in Amsterdam (prostitute)”, expressed the feelings of angry and disgust about someone’s appearance that is too sexy; “An excellent shrek”, expressed to insult someone caused she feel so angry; “A horridious piece of work”, is used to reveal a feeling of angry and

disgust; “Tweedledum and Tweedledee”, it is used to insult a couple people who are very stupid like Tweedledum and Tweedledee; “Out of your mind”, expressed an insulting in a joking situation; “A proper psycho”, it is used to reveal a feeling of shocked and annoyed; and “Sort of whack”, it is used to reveal a feeling of astonishment about something.

3. Influenced by Culture (American and British style).

In this part, the author attempts to analyze the differences in the use of abusive language by the British and Americans in the Wild Child movie. From data obtained from the film, the writer gets the following results.

The American taboo wors in this movie such as: shit, crazy, hot, bitch, uncool, loser, yawn, trashier, gross, medieval, ridiculous, screw, slovently, weird, stupid, gay, dweep, big deal, make the cut, bleeping business, like I give a shit, attitudinal problem, all-around sick, going out of my mind, ugly loser horse face, sweaty upper lips alert, total asshole, hook up, excellent shreck, whoop- ass, horridious cow.

The British taboo wors in this movie such as: Nightclub Remedial, Mental, Asshole, wisecracks, Fool, Nuisance slutty, Whore-y, sit- brain cerberus Snog, Moron, Ninny, Crazy Idiot, stupid, Trouble, Thick, Ridiculous, Bitch, Daft, Absurd, Utter moron, Dogs, vermin, American, Rotting pig’s vomit, Appearing in a window in Amsterdam, really stupid ones, dwarf prostitutes, horridious piece of work, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, out of your mind, bunch of ugly loser, proper psycho, and short of whack.

The classification above, there is a clearly distinction in wording between Americans and British. Although the situation is almost the same, but there is a difference in expressing feelings such as: when the people want to express anger to someone else, the British prefer to use the word “moron, mentally, and stupid” but American use the words “uncool, crazy, and slovenly”.

The other example from the movie, British people prefer to use straightforward words or meaningful corresponding original words, while American prefer to use words figuratively although, it does not distinguish intensity all the rage. Then, to express disgust or dislike, the American people prefer to use the word gross, horridious cow, horse face, dweeb, and excellent shrek. While the British prefer to use nightclub, dogs, Vermin, slutty, whore-y, and rotting pig's vomit.

Conclusion

Based on the result of this study, some conclusions can be formulated as follows.

1. There are five forms of abusive language in this movie, they are: animal terms of abuse, sexist terms of abuse, racist terms of abuse, homophobic terms of abuse, and intellect- based terms of abuse.
2. The difference between the use of taboo words by the British and Americans in this movie is just on the expression, British people prefer to use straightforward words or meaningful corresponding original words, while Americans prefer to use words figuratively although, it does not distinguish intensity all the rage. I.g. the American people prefer to use the figurative language just like gross, horridious cow, horse face, dweep, and excellent shreck. However,

British prefer to use straightforward like nightclub, dogs, Vermin, slutty, whore-y, and rotting pig's vomit.

References

- Allan, K. and Burridge, K. 2006. *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Bousfield, D. 2008. *Impoliteness in Interaction: Pragmatics and Beyond New Series*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Fairman, C.M. 2009. *Fuck: Word Taboo and Protecting Our First Amandment Liberties*. Illinois: Sphinx Publishing.
- Freitas, E.S.L. 2008. *Taboo in Advertising*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Holmes, J. 2013. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (Fourth Edition). New York:Routledge.
- Hornby, A.S. 1974. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English. Bucks: Ayles Bury
- Liddicoat, A. J. 2007. *An Introduction to Conversational Analysis*. London: Continuum.
- Trudgill, P. 2000. *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society* (Fourth Edition). London: Penguin Group.
- Wardhaugh, R. 2006. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (Fifth Edition). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.