CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is the passing of information from one person to another. According to Baldwin, *et al.* (2014), communication is the process of creating and transmitting symbolic and interpretive behaviors between people. It can be understood that communication is the transfer of meaning between the sender and the receiver. To be able to share information, people must communicate with each other. As intermediaries in communicating, people need a language as a tool to communicate so that communication runs smoothly and successfully. Through a language, people can understand the feelings or thoughts of the other. Even in a communication, people can show surprise, worry, hatred, upset and so on. When they are surprised or upset, few individuals might choose to utilize language that has a big impact, for example, peoples use language that is considered offensive. When people are in this situation, they usually use gestures, expressions, and words and it will happen reflexively, usually the use words or body movements in this case is usually considered as rude, vulgar and may be considered as insulting. In terms of linguistic this is known as taboo word.

According to Trudgill (2000), taboos are related to unsaid things, especially unused words and expressions. Which means taboo words are terms that can only be used in particular contexts, most notably in informal situations. It because the taboo word has rude meaning that has strong impact. Taboo words is

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not only used to show an emotional feeling or show an anger, but taboo words are also used to show sense of friendship or intimacy with others. Moreover, taboo words also show identification in a communication. The usage of taboo words can be seen in various films, novels, informal situations, and can be found in a song lyric. Some song lyrics that contain of taboo words can be found in rap songs by Lil Dicky in the album *Professional Rapper*. Some lyrics in the *Professional Rapper* album contain taboo words, as in the song lyrics entitled *$ave dat money, "Fuck you know about the world he was raised in? (Fuck)"*, the word *fuck* is used to intensify the sentence the world he was raised in? *Professional Rapper* is one of Lil Dicky's albums; he is an American rap singer; most of his songs are rap music.

Rap music is a music genre that was created in the United States in the 1970s that involves the technique of rap, which is a way of speaking quickly using a fast rhythm. According to James (2021), rap is a verse made up of rhymes and varied syllables with lyrics addressed towards a real or imagined adversary. Moreover, he claims that rap song is a vocal expression accompanied by artificial beats and voice derived from hip-hop. People sometimes mix up rap with hip-hop because of their similar styles, however unlike rap, hip-hop does not require a rap verse. Rap need a unique vernacular and rhythmic language, followed by a breakdancing style. In some rap songs owned by Lil Dicky contain some taboo words. The usage of taboo words is acceptable since consideration to be the most effective and strongest way to dissatisfaction.

Based on this consideration, the usage of taboo words in the song lyrics is interesting to be analyzed. Researchers chooses song lyrics, specifically rap songs,

as a data source rather than any other types of song because rap songs frequently contain taboo words. This is related to the life of many black people in America, which deals with racism, fight, or drug. According to Rose (1994), rap music is an expression of black culture that emphasizes black voices from suburban America. Rap music is a kind of storytelling accompanied by the rhythm of electronic music, which is a youth culture of African-American and Afro-Caribbean origin that includes graffiti, breakdancing, and rap music. Since it is inception, rap music expressed the joys and difficulties of black urban living in America. They rap about avoiding gangs. pressure and still earn respect, how to deal with losing some friends to gunfights, drug overdoses and also raising political issues. However, the lyrics of rap music can also be an expression of real human life. Therefore, the researcher thinks that song lyrics especially rap song can be used as a data source. The researcher used Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper* as the data source. This song is a rap song, in this song the singer frequently uses taboo words in the lyrics to express their feeling.

1.2 Problems of the Study

There are two problems of this study, which are formed by the following questions:

1. What types of taboo words are found in Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper*?

2. What are the functions of taboo words found in Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The following are the study's objectives, which are based on the problems mentioned above:

1. To classify the types of taboo words which are found in Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper*.

2. To analyze the functions of taboo words in the lyrics of Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper*.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

There are two aspects of limitation of this study based on the problems, there were the various types of taboo words in Lil Dicky album *Professional Rapper* based on the theory of Batistella (2005) and the function of the taboo based on the theory of Wardhaugh (2006)

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study's findings are intended to give knowledge and information on taboo words. Regarding the background and purpose of the study, researchers also expect to make significant contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the findings provided additional information for other linguists. Practically, the research can bring some benefits to society.
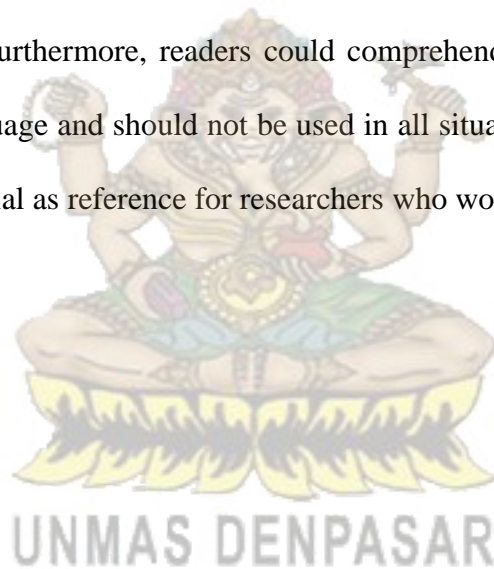
1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the goal of this study is to aid in the advancement of sociolinguistic especially in taboo words in song lyrics. Therefore, this study can

be used as a resource for education, especially in sociolinguistics subjects. And this research can be a source for the further researcher who want to analyze about taboo words.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this research expected to provide new insights into taboo words, mainly the types and the functions of the taboo words. In addition, this study is expected to provide clear descriptions that enrich readers' understanding of taboo words. Furthermore, readers could comprehend that taboo words are a poor form of language and should not be used in all situations. This study may be useful and beneficial as reference for researchers who working on the same topic.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, THEORIES

2.1 Review of Related Literature

Review of related literature is required to know what has been done by the other researchers who have explored this topic. There are two undergraduate thesis and one journal article which are reviewed and relates to the study's topic.

The first thesis was written Praptika (2020) entitled "An Analysis of Taboo words in *Clerks 2* Movie". The purpose of this previous research were to find out the type and the functions of taboo words found in *Clerks 2* movie. The descriptive qualitative method was utilized in this study to explain the use of taboo words in movies. The method was applied in order to give clear analysis on the data according the theory proposed by Batistella (2005) who proposed to analysis type of taboo words and the theory proposed by Wardhaugh (2006) to analyze the function of taboo words. The observation method was used to collect the data, the first step is by watching the *Crerks 2* movie, and doing note-taking. The next step is classifying the data. The results of this previous research shows that four types of taboo words appear in the movie. He also found the four functions of taboo words in the movie. This recent study has similarity with Praptika's thesis from theory that used is Batistella (2005). The difference between Praptika's thesis and this thesis is the data source. Praptika's thesis used movie as the data source while this thesis uses song lyric as the data source.

Second research was written by Yanelia (2020) entitled "Taboo Words in the Lyrics of Cardi B on *Album Invasion of Privacy*". The aims of previous study were to describe the types, functions and meanings of taboo words. The study used Battistella (2005) theory to classify the types of taboo words, to analyze the functions, they used Wardhaugh's (2006) theory, and the meanings categorized using Geoffrey's theory. This previous study used library research in collecting the data. To collect the data, the writer used documentation method. The first step was downloading the lyrics of the song, second reading the lyrics, and third the writer selected the lyrics that contain of taboo words. After finding the taboo words the writer write down the data and finally, the writer arrange the data based on the theory used. The author discovered four types and four functions of taboo words. Furthermore, the writer found there are two taboo meanings. This study has similarity with Yanelia's thesis which is same analyzing songs but with different data sources. The difference between Yanelia's thesis with this study is Yanelia's thesis analyzed three problem which are the type, function and meaning of taboo words. While this study analyzed two problem which are the type and function of taboo words.

Third is an article written by Farisi*, et al*. (2019), entitled "A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Taboo Words in Alpha Dog Movie". The aims of the research done by Farisi, *et al* (2019) were to analyze the types and functions of taboo words spoken by the Alpha Dog movie's characters and note taking technique was used to collecti the data in this previous article. And then the writer used referential analysis technique to analyze the data. The findings of this article

show the use of four types and functions of taboo words. The similarity with this study are both use of theory which is Battistella (2005). The difference is in the data source.

2.2 Concepts

This part of the study presents some basic concepts related to the research topic. And the concept consisted of several theories related to this study. The concept presented as follows.

2.2.1 Sociolinguistics

According to Holmes (2013:1), sociolinguistics learn about how language and people interact. Which mean that sociolinguistics investigates why humans speak various language styles in various social circumstances, discovering the social roles of language and how language is used to express social meaning. and social relations in society and how people communicate with each other with social identity through language and structure. In society that exists in this world has the same requirement to distinguish between good language and bad language. In most cases, good language is defined as someone speaking effectively and nicely in context of communication. A good language must have a powerful message that is communicated in a lovely and charming manner. Taboo words are regarded as not common language in society and are often misused by people, and sometimes disturb those who hear them. There are different types of bad language such as profanity, swearing, slang and taboo.

2.2.2 Taboo Words

Wardhaugh (2006) defines taboo as the restriction or exclusion of behavior in any society that is thought to cause harm to its members due to fear and awkwardness. This is a very strict politeness boundary. As long as it is a language, many things cannot be said, or several objects can only be said in particular situations. Uttering taboo words can offend someone, for example taboo words that refer to sex or the body of people race.

2.2.3 Song Lyrics

Song, according to the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2008:423), is a music that contains words that can be sung. Songs are generally sung music. The words of a song are called lyrics. According to the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary lyrics express immediate personal feelings, and lyrics can consist of a series of verses. Songs can have a simple structure of one or two stanzas, or more complex structures with multiple verses and choruses. Songs usually have a meter or a beat. if you sing lyrics of a song, you can feel the way or the pulse of the lyrics driving the song.

2.3 Theories

There are two different theories that are used in this study and and it is very important because it is used as the basis of analysis. The theory used in this writing is proposed by Batistella (2005), in the book entitled "Bad Language: Are Some Words Better than Others" which is used to analyze the types of taboo words and secondly, Wardhaugh (2006) in the book entitled "An Introduction to Sociolinguistics" which is proposed to analyze function of taboo words.

2.3.1 Types of Taboo Words

People employ a variety of terms, including taboo words. In some cases, taboo words are words that cannot be used. This is because taboo words are closely related to bad language. To define the types of taboo words, Batistella (2005:72) proposed four types of taboo words there are "epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity". The explanations of the categories of taboo words are presented below to have a better understanding of the terms.

a. Epithets

Epithets are a form of taboo word that is employed as incendiary language. An epithet is a term that is used to stigmatize another individual based on their race, ethnicity, appearance, or impairments. Several forms of slurs can be found in epithets, such as *wop*, *raghead*, and *bitch*. Often these are related to appearance, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, and disabilities. Words that include in this type such as *race, motherfucker, retard, midget, nigger and bitch*. (Batistella 2005:72). Epithets may appear because the person who said the words expresses their hatred, frustration, or anger towards something. Therefore, they use emotional language by saying taboo words directed at others.

b. Profanity

Batistella (2005:72), words of profanity might be classified as words related to religion because they usually involve the misuse of something that is considered sacred. The speaker's purpose is not to discredit God or certain spirituality, but it might be used to indicate an emotional reaction to a specific

motive. *Dammit, damn, hell*, and *Jesus Christ* are examples of words in this category.

c. Vulgarity

Vulgarity and profanity have a similar relationship, specifically for terms or statements that are closely related to the intimate components of the body's excretory function (Batistella, 2005:72). The distinction between vulgar and obscene is usually measured by the degree of vulgarity spoken, and vulgarity is a street language that is often used by people to mock someone. As a result, pronouncing of vulgar language is frequently meant to degrade or denigrate something or person. Words that fall into this category are *ass, tit, cock, cunt and dick*.

d. Obscenity

Obscenity is an expression that is not allowed to be used in public because it is disgusting, obnoxious, unpleasant and morally repugnant. Batistella (2005:72), state that obscenity is a word or phrase that refers to gender-specific anatomy or sexual and excretory functions, often expressed roughly. For example: *piss, crap. fart, shit, fuck, bastard,* and *wank.*

2.3.2 Functions of Taboo Words

Taboo words are regularly used for a cause. Wardhaugh (2006:239), state that taboo words are often ignored in certain cases since there are various functions include "to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be

provocative, and to mock authority". In order to clearly illustrate the functions of taboo words, take look at the functions of taboo words below.

a. To Draw Attention to Oneself

This function occurs if people pronounce a taboo word to attract the attention of the listener. The audience will respond immediately to the speaker because the speaker uses strong language. Mc Edward (in Mc Guire 1973: 5-6) states that shock rhetoric is used to get people's attention. Those who use this strategy attract attention by employing powerful and language that is passionate and has meanings that trigger an immediate temperamental reaction from the listener usually one of indignation. This function aims to attract the attention of the audience by saying taboo words. Therefore, people use taboo words, because of their strong connotations, they are considered to have the power to attract the attention of the audience. For instance:

Sol : ***What the fuck are you doing****? The fucking car just died.*
Cheddar : *I told you stupid-ass niggas not to be doin' that shit.*

Dialogue above, Sol attempts to attract his friend attention since he believes his friend is terrified of being apprehended by the police. Then he shouts out to his friend, *What the fuck are you doing?* to grab his friend's concern so he could calm down (Anggita,2015).

b. To Show Contempt

People display or express contempt when they utilize taboo words to humiliate the target because they believe someone or something is absolutely

useless and unable to be appreciated. Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2008:93), contempt mean has no feelings or not having value or a person who has no ability and can't be respected, lack of respect for rules, danger, and contemptible. Which mean someone attempted to communicate contempt by using a taboo word, the speaker would offend the other person by saying words that would hurt the other person's feelings. For example:

Cheddar : *I told you stupid-**ass nigga** not to be doin' that shit.*
Sol : *That rifle ain't mine. I don't want to go to jail.*

Cheddar's usage of taboo words such as *ass nigga* in the dialogue above it is evident that it's meant to portray contempt. since he is upset with Sol. Cheddar believes Sol has brought a firearm that is not his mine. The taboo words *nigga* is another variant of the term nigger, which signifies to disrespect for black people's race. (Anggita, 2015).

c. To Be Provocative

This function appears if someone utters a taboo word, and he or she may be intending to elicit a specific reaction from the other person, such as hurt or anger. Rothwell in Fitzgerald (2007: 17) assert that obscene words are a word strategy often used by protesters to incite chaotic reaction. It is assumed that using taboo words spoken by someone is the efficient way to create chaos. For instance:

Jimmy : *I told you not to **fuckin'** sign me up. What the fuck?*
David : *You wanna fight me now, huh?*

Dialogue above, Jimmy is upset with David because he signed Jimmy up for a rap battle without his consent. Jimmy is so irritated by David's behavior that

he says *fuck* in order to elicit David's rage. David is enraged and eager to confront Jimmy. Throughout this conversation Jimmy has effectively incited David's anger. (Anggita, 2015).

d. To Mock Authority

This function is triggered whenever people have already shown dissatisfaction with a fact that differs from what they wanted. This corresponds to Rothwell (in Fitzgerald 2007: 17) claims that verbal obscenity indicates a tremendous contempt for social rules, revolt against authority, and insolence for things held sacrosanct. It shows when citizens are disappointed with the public image of government and other organizations. For example:

Hoot   : *Once that first bullet goes past your head, politics and all that* ***shit***
              just goes right out the window.
Steele   : *I just want to do it right today.*

Dialogue above, Hoot's use of the taboo word shit suggests that he is fed up with politics. and everything associated to it. He used the words *shit* to criticize the political scenario in his nation, emphasizing his dissatisfaction with the political environment. (Anggita, 2015).