CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 Background of the Study

Generally, language is used to communicate one's intention to others. To keep conversation activities running forward smoothly, people use language to transfer messages or send information. Moreover, people also employ language to reveal or conceal their own identity, character, and origin without even realizing it (Chaika, 1982: 2). Language can maintain social relationship among one to another. People can express their messages through language, which allows engagement and communication to occur. As a result, every person has their unique method of selecting the language variety that can establish one's identity. Language allows people to socialize and communicate with one another about whatever they are doing in their daily life.

One of the studies which discuss about how the language use in a society or social uses is known as sociolinguistics. According to Spolsky (1998: 3) Sociolinguistics is the study of the relation between language and society, between the uses of language and the social structures in which the users of language live. In society, some people may prefer to employ language that has a significant impact. For example, people may use words that are regarded to be bad language but are absolutely unsuitable to use. Producing taboo words is one way for them to communicate their feelings. People usually swear through uttering prohibited words since they are the most powerful way of expressing their dissatisfaction.

According to Wardhaugh (2006: 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. In linguistics, a taboo word is one phenomenon which exists in most languages because every member of society has different ways to express her and his mind in language, depending on the moral values, norms and cultures that exist and develop in each language. Therefore, taboo becomes common phenomena in today's life. Taboo words are not preferred to be used in formal conversation. It is because they may create embarrassment, disgust, and a violation of social norms in the sociocultural context. However, sometimes we used it when we are angry or swearing. Thus, taboo words are terms that are particularly uttered in an informal context or in a setting that qualifies in an appropriate manner and for a specified reason.

Taboo words are commonly used in everyday speech, despite the fact that they are not permitted in formal conversation on a global scale. Almost all cultures have taboo words. Other words are prohibited, but the actions they refer to are not. When it comes to sex, it is frequently regarded as taboo, despite the fact that the action itself is not prohibited if performed by the appropriate person at the appropriate time and place. As a result, words that are associated to or linked to taboo acts will become taboo words (Allan and Burridge, 2006: 2). The meaning of taboo words cannot be found in the dictionary, therefore we can learn something new to be used in our daily life to communicate with westerns and our relationship would be better.

Taboo words also exist in the movie since movie presenting people life in this world. The existence of taboo words also gives interesting aspects for the movie because it helps the audience to know background of the culture of the characters. The movie entitled *Don't Breathe 2* is one of many movies which used taboo words. Rodo Sayagues is the director of American horror thriller film (*Don't Breathe 2*) and that was released in theaters on August 13, 2021 in the United States. This movie is about Norman Nordstrom, a blind man who has been hiding out in a lonely cottage for certain years. He now lives with a little girl and has reconstructed the family that was taken away from him by a drunk driver. When his little girl is kidnapped by a group of unscrupulous criminals, their peaceful life together is destroyed. Norman now has to rely on even darker and more imaginative instincts to save his little girl. Taboo word in this movie is really interesting to study because lot of new things that can be found in some dialogs. Analyzing taboo words is a task that extends far beyond the mere identification of explicit language. It involves delving into the intricate web of societal perceptions, cultural norms, and individual sensitivities. Contrary to a straightforward categorization, understanding taboo words demands a nuanced examination of the diverse contexts in which they emerge. Analyzing taboo words is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of societal dynamics, cultural diversity, and communication norms. Delving into the perception of explicit language provides insights into the complex interplay of cultural values, historical shifts, and power structures that shape linguistic taboos. Recognizing the subjectivity in sensitivity to taboo words is vital for fostering effective communication and promoting cultural understanding. Furthermore, such

analysis aids in navigating legal and regulatory frameworks, contributing to the ongoing dialogue about the balance between freedom of expression and the preservation of public decency. By acknowledging the importance of context and individual perspectives, the study of taboo words enables a nuanced comprehension of language use, fostering more inclusive and respectful communication within diverse societies.

1. 2 Problems of the Study

According to the background of study above, there are two problems that were analyzed on this thesis namely:

1. What are the types of taboo words found in *Don't Breathe 2* movie?
2. What are the functions of taboo words spoken by the characters in *Don't Breathe 2* movie?

1. 3 Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the study should be clearly and obviously supporting the related topic discussed. Therefore, the objectives to be achieved in this study as follow:

1. To find out and classify the types of word taboos which are found in *Don't Breathe 2* movie.
2. To know and analyze the function of word taboos spoken by the characters in *Don't Breathe 2* movie.

1. 4 Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study, this research was limited on analyzing the types of taboo words and its function used by all characters in the movie *Don't Breathe 2*. The data of this research were be analyzed by using the theory developed by Batistella (2005) in his book entitled "*Bad Language: Are Some Words Better Than Others?*" they are four types of taboo words, those are epithets, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity and analyze the function of taboo words spoken by all characters by using the theory developed by Wardhaugh (2006) entitled "*An Introduction to Sociolinguistics (Fifth Edition)*". There are four functions of taboo words based on Wardhaugh (2006) those are: to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority.

1. 5 Significance of the Study

Every research should have significance that has to be achieved. This research has two basic significances that were explained in two ways, they are theoretical significance and practical significance.

1. 5. 1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research is helpful to be an additional knowledge to the readers about taboo words and the result could provide new insights, especially the ability to understand about the meaning of word taboos in the movie. Furthermore, the readers know about word taboos is forbidden to be used in formal situation. And

this research may be applied as the reference by others researcher or by those who want learn more about taboo words that are found in the movie.

1. 5. 2 Practical significance

Practically, this research is expected to give a contribution to the development of literary study, especially about word taboos and also improved the ability to elaborate the word taboos found in the movie. The data of word taboos found in this research can be used as teaching material in the subject of sociolinguistics.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPT, AND THEORIES

This chapter consists of review of related literature, concepts, and theories. In review of related literature there are two under graduated theses and an article which were related with this research. The concepts of this study consist of taboo words, movie, and language function. The last part of this chapter is theories used in this study. Those theories are developed by Batistella (2005) and Wardhaugh (2006) to analyzing the data.

2. 1 Review of Related Literature

The first reviewed thesis was written by Trisna (2010), in his work entitled "Taboo Words in the Hollywood Movie "Pineapple Express" and Their Translation into Indonesian". The movie was not only translated lexically, but also translated idiomatically. The data of his study was collected through observation and note taking technique. The thesis gives us clear explanation about the version of word taboos in English into Indonesian. The explanation has been written that makes the reader understand about the meanings of taboo word. His thesis used the theory proposed by Jay (1992). There are 409 expressions of word taboos found in the movie. From 10 types of word taboos, there are 8 of them which were found in the movie "Pineapples Express". The similarity between Trisna's study and this study is both studies analyze about the same topic: word taboos in the movie. The differences are in this study does not include the translation of word taboos that

happen in the movie but this study was analyze the function of word taboos that uttered by the character in the movie.

Second reviewed thesis was written by Wirakusuma (2012) entitled "Taboo Words in Movie "Superhero Movie" and "Scary Movie 2". The thesis gives us the brief information about the word taboos and expressive function that can be easy to understand by the reader. The data of his study was collected through observation and documentation method. It was followed by filing the data through note-taking technique and then categorizing the data based on the theories. That way his data was collected also gives the idea for this study. There are 148 words found in "Scary Movie 2" and 86 words in "Superhero Movie" that belong to word taboos. The similarity between Wirakusuma's study and this study is analyzing about taboo words in the movie. The difference between Wirakusuma's study and this study is his study used theory developed by Kate Burridge and Keith Allan (2006) while in this study used the theory developed by Batistella (2005) and Wardhaugh (2006). Furthermore, Wirakusuma's study only focuses on expressive function of word taboos while this study was elaborate all of the function of word taboos in the movie based on theory used.

The last reviewed was taken from an article written by Ardo (2001), entitled "Emotion, Taboo, and Profane Language" shows how the emotions of somebody can result in the uttering of taboo words. The topic about taboo word and also the categories in this article is very useful to support the part of taboo word in this study. This article gives us the clear explanation about the taboo and their categories in order to be understood. The Similarity between Ardo's study and this study is both

studies analyze about taboo words and the method for collecting the data which is observation method and the difference is the theory used in the study which is previous study used the theory proposed by Jay (1992) and this study used the theory proposed by Batistella (2005) and Wardaugh (2006). Considering two of the thesis and an article that has similar topics as define this study by combining those ideas into united ideas and adopted to give the inspiration for this study.

2. 2 Concepts

This part consists with the concepts that are used in this study. There are concepts that need to be explained because very necessary since it provides to better understanding both researcher and readers. There are three related concepts in order to support this study.

2. 2. 1 Taboo

Taboos refer to something that is not allowed and should not be used. According to Allan and Burridge (2006: 2-3), taboo refers to a term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous and therefore it must be avoided. People generally refer to taboo as unpleasant terms that prohibited to use in everyday speech since they can have a shocked effect on the person who hears them. Word taboos is a word that can be used to communicate a strong emotion or mood, especially when used in the form of swearing. Therefore, word taboos are those that should be avoided or totally eliminated in various settings or formal situations, Akmajian et al., (2004: 303).

2. 2. 2 Movie

Hornby (2006: 950) stated that a series of moving images with voice that tells a history and is shown at a movie theater is considered to as a movie. Movies are made by utilizing cameras to capture images from the outside world or by using animation or unique effects to create images. Movies have evolved a lot over time; a lot of movies are based on true stories in the world and other from books or novels.

2. 2. 3 Language Functions

Language was a piece of speaker's life. Language has several roles, including providing information, delivering messages, convey your emotions, persuading people, entertaining people, and sharing opinions (Trudgill, 1974:99). Fundamentally, language is used not just as a means of communication, to transmit or deliver information, or to express opinions, feelings, or ideas, but it also serves a variety of additional purposes. It represents the highest level of the speech voice technology that was once employed to communicate with the fact most people. The development of good language is founded on a system, or a set of norms that speakers accept. Knowing how language works includes understanding its purpose, how it is used, and what it delivers.

2. 3 Theories

In this study, there are two theories was be used to help analyzing the problems of the study. The first theory developed by Batistella (2005) to identify the types of word taboos and reflect the function of word taboos spoken by the characters by using the theory developed by Wardhaugh (2006).

2. 3. 1 Taboo words

Taboo words are closely connected to sociolinguistics. Taboo words in any society are a common and also a unique sociolinguistics phenomenon. They are prohibited since they are considered offensive, shocking or rude. There are most of words taboo used in the movies these days. The words are unacceptable, but they are still uttered in appropriate conditions. Batistella (2005: 72) stated that, there are four types of word taboos, those are:

2.3.1.1 Epithets

The presence of various kinds of insults, such as *Bitch* and *fag*, characterizes as epithets. Other epithets include *nigger, midget and retard, motherfucker and tit-man,* which are all related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, appearance, and disability (Batistella, 2005: 72). Epithets can be uttered as a result of exasperation or rage on the part of the speaker. As a result, they were utilizing emotional language by expressing taboo words directed at someone else.

2.3.1.2 Profanity

Based on Batistella (2005: 72) stated that, because it frequently includes the foul-mouthed usage of what is generally sacred, profanity might be classified as religious cursing. *Jesus Christ, hell, damn, and goddamn* are some of the prohibited terms that are classified as profanity. The speaker's purpose is not to demonize God or anything associated with religion, but it might be used to communicate an emotional reaction to particular motivations.

2.3.1.3 Vulgarity

Vulgarity and obscenity refer to the same thing, especially when it comes to words or statements that rough up sexual anatomy and excretory function (Batistella, 2005: 72). The level of prurience is commonly the separation between vulgarity and obscenity. Vulgarity is thought to be a representation of street language in its most natural form. As a result, using vulgar language is frequently intended to degrade or humiliate the thing or person in question. *Ass, tit, cock, dick, and cunt* are some vulgarity-related words of taboo.

2.3.1.4 Obscenity

Obscenity is defined by Batistella (2005: 72) as phrases or expressions that involve sex distinguishing anatomy, sexual and excretory function, and are frequently spoken in a harsh manner. *Piss, crap, fart, shit, fuck, bastard,* and *wank* are examples of this type of term. Obscenity is a term for phrases that are forbidden in public because they are repulsive to the senses, disgusting, unpleasant, and morally repulsive.

2. 3. 2 Functions of Taboo Words

Taboo words are frequently spoken for a reason. Based on Wardhaugh (2006: 239), word taboos are ignored on occasion because they serve a variety of purposes. There are four function of word taboos by him, those are:

2.3.2.1 To Draw Attention to Oneself

To attract the attention of the audience, people may say prohibited words. Mc Edward (in Mc Guire 1973: 5-6) assert that advisers should attract the audience's interest by using aggressive, dramatic language whose connotation can trigger an immediate response from the listeners. As a result, people utilize taboo

words, such as hey you son of a *Bitch*! Which are thought to have the potential to attract the interest of audiences due to their powerful connotation.

2.3.2.2 To Show Contempt

In a dialogue between two people, the usage of prohibited words can sometimes be interpreted as a sign of disrespect. Contempt, based on Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (1995: 249), is the feeling that someone or something is completely useless and cannot be respected. Namely, when someone tries to exhibit disrespect by employing prohibited phrases, they insult the addressee by using words that may violate their pride, such as: you're only a *retarded* child.

2.3.2.3 To Be Provocative

When someone mentions words of taboo, they may be going to instigate a certain reaction from others, such as foul or rage. This is in keeping with Rothwell's statement (in Fitzgerald 2007: 17) that verbal obscenity can be the most effective symbolic strategy available to protesters for provoking chaos. Taboo are successful when the reaction matches the speaker's expectation, for example, hello stupid *ass*! Do you want to revenge against me?

2.3.2.4 To Mock Authority

When people are dissatisfied with general representations such as institutions or government, they may utilize forbidden phrases. Verbal obscenity communicates a major contempt for society's control, a rebellion against power, and impertinence for sacred things, Rothwell (in Mc Guire, 1973: 6). To put it another way, people used forbidden phrases to communicate their unhappiness with a reality that contrasted from their expectations. As a result, some people may prefer

to utilize certain prohibited phrases aimed at mocking authority to express their disbelief in governmental matters, such as *fucking* stupid politicians!