



An analysis of types of taboo words among teenagers in the *It* (2017) movie

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Abstrak: This research aims to find the types of taboo words uttered by teenage teenage characters in *It* (2017) movie. This research used a descriptive qualitative method. The source of the data were the video of *It* (2017) movie and the transcript. The data of this research are words, phrases, clauses, and sentences uttered by teenage teenage characters of *It* (2017) movie. The data were collected by watching the video repeatedly and then matching the transcript and the video carefully. Then the raw data were analyzed by applying Jay (1992) theory. Based on the data analysis, it was found seven types of taboo words uttered by teenage teenage characters in *It* (2017) movie. The most frequently used is epithet which appear 84 times (52%), followed by insult and slur which appear 39 times (24%), obscenity which appear 17 times (10%), vulgarity which appear 7 times (4%), profanity which appear 6 times (4%), and scatology and cursing which appear 5 times each (3%).

Kata kunci: Sociolinguistics, Taboo Words, *It* (2017) Movie



INTRODUCTION

Language is important to society to interact with others. Language is a social occasion that bound with the social structure and value systems of society (Trudgill, 2000). Language is mainly attentive to human beings and formed a system of sounds produced by people for communication.

Communication lead an important role in human life. Without communication, humans will not be able to understand each other because there is no social contact. In principle, humans communicate using language even though they can communicate using other communication tools (Wiratno & Santosa, 2014). In this context, the language used by human is human language.

Taboo is one of the studies in Sociolinguistics related to culture and society. Taboo words include inappropriate words, we can find them in people's conversations, songs, social media, and movies. actually, taboo words are classified as harsh words and are forbidden to be used, but now taboos are used by people especially teenagers to express their feelings. According to (Freud, 2012), the meaning of taboo can be brances into two oposite directions. It can be mean sacred, consecrated: but on the other hand it can be means, uncanny, dangerous, forbidden and unclean. It can be conclude that taboo words are words that are inappropriate to say and should be avoided. Using taboo words to express their feelings so that the use of taboo words is the most frequently chosen way to express dissatisfaction. According to (Ningjue, 2010), taboo can be classified into two categories namely verbal taboo and non-verbal taboo or behavioral taboo.

These days, taboo words are frequently used in the world, one of them is in movie. It is to express the personality emotion such as: anger, surprise, disappointment, and the others. Another reason why numerous movies use taboo words in their dialogues is to carry the plot of the story. As applied in daily activities, occasion of taboo words is obvious.

In the present research, the researcher use movie to be the subject of the research. A horror American movie entitled *It* (2017) is chosen for this subject of the research by the researcher. In this research, the researcher aims to investigated types of taboo words among teenagers in *It* (2017) movie because the characters in *It* (2017) movie are mostly teenagers.

There are several previous researchs related to taboo words as reference in this present research. First, the research conducted by (Fika, 2015) entitled "A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Taboo Words in Bad Teacher Movie". Second, the research conducted by (Aditia, 2011) entitled "An Analysis of Taboo Words and Swear Words in Dustin Lee Abraham's *How High* Movie". Third, the research conducted by (Sugiarti, 2020) entitled "Taboo Words in *Patriots Day* Movie (2013)". Fourth, the research conducted by (Amalia T., 2017) entitled "The Use of Taboo Words in *War Dogs* Movie (2016): A Sociopragmatic Study".

METHOD

Types of the Research

The researcher used a descriptive qualitative in this research since it implicated the collection of data for the purpose of describing the existing condition.

Data and Source of the Data

The source of data were the video of the movie and the transcript of the dialogues spoken by the teenage teenage characters in *It* (2017) movie. The researcher took the transcript from <https://subdl.com/s/subtitle/sd1260/it-2017>.

Technique of Data Collection

The researcher used documentation method to collect the data. Documentation method means that the collected data are from internet, video, transcription and some books of copy. In collected the data, the researcher used some steps below:

1. The researcher downloaded *It* (2017) movie from <https://149.56.24.226/it-2017/> and downloaded the english subtitle as the transcript from <https://subdl.com/s/subtitle/sd1260/it-2017>
2. After that, the researcher watch the *It* (2017) movie with engslih subtitled repeatedly to identify the whole story.
3. After watching the movie repeatedly, the researcher taking notes the dialogues of teenage character of *It* (2017) movie that contain taboo words from movie.

Technique of Data Analysis

The method analyzing data that is used in this research is Cresswell's theory. The remaining steps of data analysis of data (Creswell, 2009) are described as follow:

1. Preparing the data for analysis
This involves the dialogues of teenage characters of *It* (2017) movie that contain taboo words from the movie.
2. Reading and understanding all the data
This step is to gain a general sense of the information and to reflect on its overall meaning.
3. Coding and classifying the data
Then, the researcher classified the data that had been marked base on the types of taboo words by Jay (1992) one by one.
4. Making an interpretation or meaning of the data
After finished the classification, the researcher describing the types of taboo words that occur in the dialogues of teenage characters of *It* (2017) movie.
5. Drawing conclusion
Then the last is drawing conclusion that was used to analyze provide final conclusion of the research.

FINDINGS

This section presents the types of taboo words used in *It* (2017) movie. According to Jay (1992), there are eight types of taboo words those are *cursing*, *profanity*, *blasphemy*, *obscenety*, *vulgarity*, *epithet*, *insult and slur*, *scatology*.

The more explanation for each type will be discussed below. Each type will be followed with example.

1. Cursing

According to Jay (1992:2), the intent of cursing is to hurt on other person verbally using certain words or phrases and also used as an expression, wether it is excited, shocked, or anger. The words belong to this type are *shit*, *damn*, and *fuck*.

In *It* (2017) movie, cursing appears 5 times with a precentage 3%. The example present below.

(00:29:46,280 --> 00:30:10,832)

Belch : Whoa, whoa! Henry!
Henry : Shut up! I'm gonna carve my whole name onto this cottage cheese! I'm gonna cut your **fucking** tits off. I swear to God!

The participant in this conversation are Belch and Henry. Henry and Belch are bullies. The conversation above took place on the side of the road near the forest. It happens when Henry, Belch, and their friends bullied Ben, the new kid at their school. Henry pulled out a knife to hurt Ben but Belch felt it was too much. Henry who really wants to hurt Ben doesn't care about Belch and is getting more and more excited to hurt Ben. The utterance “*I’m gonna cut your **fucking** tits off.*” was used by Henry, he used **fucking** because he was very excited to hurt Ben. The utterance “*I’m gonna cut your **fucking** tits off.*” according to Jay (1992:2) is included as cursing type.

2. Profanity

Jay (1992:3) stated that profanity is based on a religious disparity. To be profane means to be nonreligious or behaving out and to be ignorant to the words in a religious belief which manage not to deprave God, religion or holy affairs but would be based more on the ignorance of or nonchalance to these matter.

In *It* (2017) movie, profanity appears 6 times with a percentage 4%. The example present below.

00:23:30,120 -> 00:23:49,596

Mrs. Kaspbrack	:	Eddie Bear, where you boys off to in such a rush?
Bill	:	Um... Just my backyard, Mrs. K. I got a new...
Richie	:	A new croquet set. Jesus! Spit it out, Bill!
Mrs. Kaspbrack	:	Okay.

The participant in this conversation are Mrs. Kapsbrak, Bill, and Richie. Bill and Richie were friends, while Mrs. Kapsbrak is the mother of Bill and Richie's friend, Eddie. The conversation above took place on Mrs. Kapsbrack's house when her child, Eddie and his friends rushed off. Mrs. Kapsbrack asked why they were rushing away. Then, Bill answered in a stuttering voice because he was nervous. Bill said they were going to play to his house when they were going somewhere else. The utterance “**Jesus! Spit it out, Bill!**” was used by Richie, he used **Jesus** to express his frustration towards Bill who speaks in a stuttering voice. Based on the data above, the word **Jesus** includes in profanity because it is used outside of religious context.

3. Blasphemy

Blasphemy is nearly similar to profanity. According to Jay (1992:3), the difference is while profanity is related to the secular or indifferent (to religion cursing), blasphemy aims to assault the religion directly. Blasphemy did not appear in *It* (2017) movie.

4. Obscenity

Jay (1992:5) says that obscene words are considered the most assault and rarely, if ever, are used in public places. Obscenities are pointed sexual in nature; this kind of expression is dissipated. But obscenity is legal. Most of the time, it is offensive and repulsive.

In *It* (2017) movie, profanity appears 17 times with a percentage 10%. The examples present below.

00:34:25,800 -> 00:35:27,670

Patrick	:	I hear ya, tits . Don't think you can stay down here all damn day now.
Voice	:	(WHISPERING) You found us, Patrick.

Patrick : You found us, Patrick. Patrick.
 Patrick : ***Fuck!***

The participant in this conversation are Patrick and ghost. Patrick is a bully and also one of Henry's friend. The conversation above took place on a large sewer drainpipe when Patrick is looking for Ben. The utterance "*I hear ya, tits.*" was used by Patrick, he used word *tits* to calling Ben. While, the utterance "***Fuck!***" was used by Patrick to express his fear because he saw ghosts. Based on the data above, according to Jay (1992:5) the words *tits* and *fuck* are included as the obscenity type.

5. Vulgarity

Vulgarity means the language of the ordinary people or the person in the street, or under-educated. It does not oblige any particular need through the normal communication demands of the common human (Jay, 1992:6).

In *It* (2017) movie, profanity appears 17 times with a percentage 10%. The example present below.

01:04:05,000 -> 01:04:21,112

Richie : No, I love being your personal doorman, really. Could you idiots have taken any longer?
 Eddie : All right, shut up, Richie.
 Stanley :
 Richie : Yeah, shut up, Richie.
 Oh, okay, trash the trashmouth, I get it. Hey, I wasn't the one scrubbing the bathroom floor and imagining that her sink went all Eddie's mom's *vagina* on Halloween.

The participant in this conversation are Richie, Eddie, and Stanley. They are friends. The conversation above took place on the street after they left Beverly's house. They cleaned up the blood that came out of Beverly's bathroom sink while Richie was on the doorstep of Beverly's house just in case Beverly's father came home. The utterance "*Hey, I wasn't the one scrubbing the bathroom floor and imagining that her sink went all Eddie's mom's vagina on Halloween.*" was used by Richie, he said that sentence because Eddie's mother is fat and thought she could bleed so much that it filled Beverly's bathroom. Based on the data above, *vagina* was included as the vulgarity type according to Jay (1992) theory.

6. Epithet

Epitets are the most dominant type spoken by the teenage characters in *It* (2017) movie with a percentage 52%. Epithets are concise but intense of emotional language. They are intense in presentment and in offensiveness than the other types of cursing (Jay:1992).

In *It* (2017) movie, profanity appears 84 times with a percentage 52%. The examples present below.

Data 1 (00:19:51,400 -> 00:20:39,470)

Woman : Help! It burns!
 Man : Mike!
 Henry : Stay the *fuck* outta my town!
 Leroy : Mike? Are you okay?

The participant in this conversation are woman, man, Henry and Leroy. Leroy is Mike's grandfather. The conversation above took place on edge of town – dirt road. Mike, who met Henry and his friends, tried to avoid them by hiding in an alley.

Right in front of him stopping was his grandfather's abattoir. That place used to burn and killed Mike's mom and dad. Heard from within the place the voices of women and men calling for help and blistered hands coming out from behind the door. Of course it's not real and only Mike's suggestion. After that Henry and his friends found Mike and almost hit him with Henry's car. The utterance "*Stay the fuck outta my town!*" was used by Henry, he used *fuck* to express his anger because Mike is not a native of Denry and Henry wants Mike to get out of the city. The utterance "*Stay the fuck outta my town!*" according to Jay (1992) is included as the epithet type.

7. Insult and Slur

Jay (1992:8) stated that insult and slur are verbal assaults of words to hurt other people. He additionally provides that they both function to hurt the people directly through the specific words or phrases.

In *It* (2017) movie, profanity appears 39 times with a percentage 24%. The examples present below.

00:12:08,920 -> 00:12:29,550

Gretta : Are you in there by yourself, Beverly? Or do you have half the guys in the school with you, huh, *slut*? I know you're in there, *little shit*. I can smell you. No wonder you don't have any friends.

Beverly : Which is it, Gretta? Am I a slut or a little shit? Make up your mind.

Gretta : You're *trash*. We just wanted to remind you.

The participant in this conversation are Gretta and Beverly. Gretta is the bully while Beverly is the kid who was bullied by Gretta. The conversation above took place on the school bathroom when Beverly was smoking in the bathroom cubicle and Gretta came to bully her. The utterance "*Or do you have half the guys in the school with you, huh, slut?*", "*I know you're in there, little shit.*" and "*You're trash.*" Was used by Gretta, she used *slut*, *little shit*, and *trash* words as form to insulting Beverly. Gretta bullied Beverly because there were rumors that Beverly had "slept" with some boys from their school. The utterance "*Or do you have half the guys in the school with you, huh, slut?*", "*I know you're in there, little shit.*" and "*You're trash.*" was included as the insult and slur type according to Jay (1992) theory.

Data 2 (00:31:13,480 -> 00:31:24,760)

Stanley : That's poison ivy. And that's poison ivy.
And that's poison ivy.

Eddie : Where? Where's the poison ivy?

Richie : Nowhere. Not every *fucking* plant is poison ivy, Stanley.

The conversation above took place on the Barrens, the river in Denry. Bill invites his friends to enter a large sewer drainpipe which is on the side of the river. Stanley, who was there for the first time, felt uncomfortable and continued to refer to the weeds as poison ivy. The utterance "*Not every fucking plant is poison ivy, Stanley.*" was used by Richie, he used *fucking* to express his frustration because Stanley keep saying that the weeds are poison ivy. Based on the data above, the word *fucking* included as the epithet type.

8. Scatology

According to Jay (1992:9), scatological terms refer to feces and. Scatology becomes offensive because it deals with discussing terms.

In *It* (2017) movie, profanity appears 5 times with a percentage 3%. The examples present below.

00:31:40,560 -> 00:31:53,278

Richie : Aren't you guys coming in?
 Eddie : Uh-uh. It's greywater.
 Richie : What the hell's greywater?
 Eddie : It's basically *piss and shit*. So I'm just telling you, you guys are splashing around in millions of gallons of Derry pee. So...

The conversation below took place on a large sewer drainpipe when Bill and his friends are looking for his brother, Georgie. Eddie who is afraid of getting dirty feels uncomfortable when Bill and Richie enter the smelly and dirty sewer. The utterance “It's basically *piss and shit*.” was used by Eddie, he used *piss and shit* to express his disgust at the smelly and dirty sewer that lay before his eyes. Based on the data above, the utterance “It's basically *piss and shit*.” according to Jay (1992) is included as the scatology type.

DISCUSSION

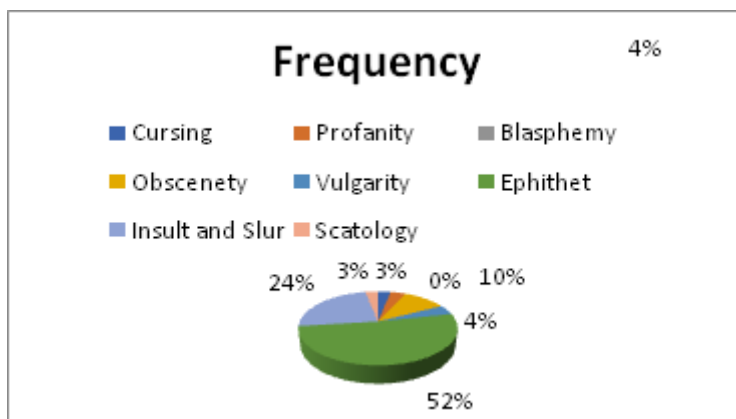


FIGURE 1 Frequency of Occurrence of Taboo Words in *It* (2017) Movie

From the diagram above, it can be noticed that the most dominant type used by the teenage characters is epithet, which appear 84 times (52%). Then the second highest frequency is insult and slur which appear 39 times (24%). The third highest frequency is obscenety which appear 17 times (10%). The fourth highest frequency are vulgarity and profanity which appear 7 and 6 times (4%). The fifth highest frequency are scatology and cursing which appear 5 times each (3%). Among all of the types, only blasphemy did not appear in *It* (2017) movie.

In terms of type of taboo words in *It* (2017) movie, epithet hugely different with the others type with frequent 84 times. Epithet becomes the most frequent type used by the teenage characters because it is considered to be the most effective way to joking around with peers and also most of the teenage characters in this movie are teenagers. As stated by Brown and Gilman (1960) “behavior norms are practices consistent within a group”. So, as long as taboo words is considered normal for people in a group, then its meaning is only intended for that group. In *It* (2017) movie, some of teenage characters are peers who often hang out together and joking around. So, they consider using epithet to their group mates is normal.

Moreover, jokes also one of positive politeness strategy by Brown and Levinson (1978). Jokes can be defined as strategies which is propose that the speaker can indicate compactness and familiarity to the hearer. It intended to avoid giving offense by highlighting friendliness and also leads to achieve solidarity through offers friendship. For example the utterance “Why don’t you shut the **fuck** up, Einstein, because I know what I’m doing and I don’t want you doing the British guy with me right now.”. it was the utterance that Eddie said when he was cleaning Ben’s wound and was interrupted by Richie. Richie was not offended by Eddie’s words because he knew that Eddie was joking with him. It will be different if Eddie said **fuck** to someone he didn’t know or someone who was older than him, there was a chance that person would feel offended by Eddie’s words.

CONCLUSION

The objective of this research is to identify and to describe the types of taboo words in *It* (2017) movie. There are eight types of taboo words but in this movie only appear seven types consist of Cursing, Profanity, Insult and Slur, Epithet, Scatology, Vulgarity, Obscenety. There were 163 taboo words occur by teenage characters found in *It* (2017) movie. The most dominant type used by the characters is epithet, which appear 84 times (52%). Then the second highest frequency is insult and slur which appear 39 times (24%). The third highest frequency is obscenety which appear 17 times (10%). The fourth highest frequency are vulgarity and profanity which appear 7 and 6 times (4%). The fifth highest frequency are scatology and cursing which appear 5 times each (3%). Among all of the types, only blasphemy did not appear in *It* (2017) movie. Epithet becomes the most frequent type used by the characters because it is considered to be the most effective way to joking around with peers.

For the other researchers, this research focuses on identifying and describing types of taboo words. There are problems such as social statue and gender issue which are not analyzed in this research. Similar research that will be carried out in the future should address these issues.

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