



Taboo Language Used by Thomas Shelby in “Peaky Blinders” Tv Series

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Abstract: This research focus on used taboo language by Thomas Shelby in Peaky Blinders Tv series. Researcher concentrates on the taboo words that happen during the conversation of Thomas Shelby in Peaky Blinders TV series. Peaky Blinders is a British TV series that is the work of Steven Knight. A colossal drama that tells the life of a mafia family in Birmingham in 1919. Led by a boss who is highly respected by his men, Thomas Shelby. A man who is described as having a calm, fierce, masculine appearance and a symbol of a real man. As well as the spirit of leadership to his gang members who are very authoritative and respected. The method used in this article is a qualitative method. Qualitative method is a research approach that aims to understand and explain social phenomena or human life by exploring non-numerical data, such as words, images, sounds, or subjective experiences. This method focuses on an in-depth understanding of the context, meaning, and perspective of individuals or groups who are the subject of research. In collecting data, researcher looks for phenomena or sources related to the theory to be discussed. Firstly, the researcher watched the phenomenon in the form of a video containing the topic discussed. Then, researcher interpret the phenomena that occur using related theories, *Language and culture (Taboo)*. Next, the researcher counted the number of sentences spoken and the number of taboo language spoken in the conversation between Thomas Shelby and his friend. In analyzing the data, the researchers applying Battistella (2005) types of taboo word theory. The most type of taboo word uses is obscenity. The objectives of this research are to identify the types of taboo words uttered by Thomas Shelby in Peaky Blinders TV series. The show is set in Birmingham, England in the aftermath of World War I, and the use of profanity is meant to reflect the rough and gritty nature of the time period.

Keywords: Language, Taboo, Culture



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I. INTRODUCTION

Language and culture are intricately linked, and certain topics and behaviors may be considered taboo within a particular cultural context. Hall (1997) argues that language, identity, and cultural differences are strongly connected due to the strong relationship between representation and culture. Taboos are social or cultural prohibitions that dictate what is considered forbidden or unacceptable within a society. These taboos can vary significantly from one culture to another, and even within different subcultures or communities within the same society.

The theory behind language and culture taboos is grounded in the idea that certain words, phrases, or topics are considered sacred, profane, offensive, or inappropriate within a specific cultural framework. These taboos often reflect deeply ingrained beliefs, values, and norms of a society, and violating them can lead to social stigma, ostracization, or other negative consequences.

Various kinds of taboo words are often found in the surrounding community, for example: in the neighborhood, even in the school environment. Many taboo languages are also found in TV series. *Peaky Blinders* is one of the TV series that uses quite a lot of taboo language. *Peaky Blinders* is a British TV series that is the work of Steven Knight. A colossal drama that tells the life of a mafia family in Birmingham in 1919. Led by a boss who is highly respected by his men, Thomas Shelby. A man who is described as having a calm, fierce, masculine appearance and a symbol of a real man. As well as the spirit of leadership to his gang members who are very authoritative and respected. Therefore, it is not surprising that this TV series inserts a lot of taboo language because this TV series is set against a background of violence and criminal acts.

The researcher concentrates on the taboo words that happen during the conversation of Thomas Shelby in *Peaky Blinders* TV series. The question is related to the types of taboo words uttered by the Thomas Shelby. The objectives of this research are to identify the types of taboo words uttered by Thomas Shelby in *Peaky Blinders* TV series.

In previous research, there have also been several results analyzed from various films in each different genre.

Fita Nur Anggita (2015) "A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORDS IN BAD TEACHER MOVIE" As a result, four taboo words were used in the film *Bad Teacher*. It is obscenity, profanity, vulgarity and epithet. They all appear in the conversations that the characters have in the film. The most common type used by characters is obscenity, occurring 19 times (59.38%). Second most common, with the same percentage being profanity and vulgarity, occurring five times (15.63%). Finally, 3-occurring epithet (9.36%) are the least common. Her four features of taboo language occur in dialogue in the film. They are intended to show contempt, draw attention to themselves, provoke authority, and ridicule. Among the four functions, the highest frequency of the taboo word function was to show contempt, occurring 14 times (43.75%). The second most notable thing happened to him ten times. It is next in Provocation in 3rd place with 7 occurrences (21.88%) and finally in Taunt of Authority with 1 occurrence and 3.12%.

Based on Muhammad Sofyan Alfarisi, Adi & Endang Setiyo Astuti (2019) "A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORDS IN ALPHA DOG MOVIE" As a result, almost all of the characters in the movie *Alpha Dog* seem to be accustomed to using taboo language in their daily communications. This can be seen from the frequency of taboo words uttered by movie characters in the datasheet. This section details the results. This section he consists of two parts. In the first part explains the types of taboo words that appear in the movie "Alpha Dog", and in the second part explains the role of taboo words. What should be discussed is the context of when, where, and why taboo topics come up in conversation.

II. METHOD

The method used in this article is a qualitative method. Qualitative methods are research approaches that aim to understand and explain social phenomena and human life through the study of non-numerical data such as words, images, sounds, and subjective experiences. This method focuses on developing a deeper understanding of the context, meaning and perspective of the individual or group being studied. Qualitative research is a research process aimed at understanding human or social phenomena by reflecting detailed opinions from sources and creating a verbal, comprehensive and complex picture, conducted in natural settings (Walidin, Saifullah & Tabrani, 2015:77).

Research using this method utilizes descriptive data in the form of words, writings, or oral from people or actors who have been observed and then interpreted. Every experience that the subject has will later be sought for the relationship that occurs with the socio-culture that exists in the community.

In collecting data, researcher looks for phenomena or sources related to the theory to be discussed. Firstly, the researcher watched the phenomenon in the form of a video containing the topic discussed. Then, researcher interpret the phenomena that occur using related theories. Next, the researcher counted the number of sentences spoken and the number of taboo language spoken in the conversation between Thomas Shelby and his friend.

The researcher only focus in first episode on third season. Researcher also only focus on the conversation of Thomas Shelby, as the main character in Peaky Blinders TV series.

III. RESULT

In the TV series Peaky Blinders, the word *f**k* became the most word uttered by Thomas Shelby. The word *f**k* is used frequently throughout the show. The show is set in Birmingham, England in the aftermath of World War I, and the use of profanity is meant to reflect the rough and gritty nature of the time period. The word *f**k* is used as a form of emphasis, to convey strong emotions such as anger, frustration, or excitement. It is also used as a way to establish dominance or assertiveness in certain situations.

Researcher found seven data from nine screenshots. Based on data the word *f**k* became the most taboo word used by Thomas Shelby to express his feelings.

In the 16 sentences spoken by Thomas, there were nine taboo words (56.25%) mentioned repeatedly. Three of them are words that have different meanings (*f**k*rs*, *b*st**ds*, *f**k*ng*).

Type of taboo word

A taboo word is a term or expression that is considered offensive, vulgar, or socially unacceptable in a particular culture or context, these words often involve sensitive topics. Taboo words vary across different cultures, languages, and social groups, and their usage is generally discouraged or prohibited due to their potential to cause offense, disrespect, or harm. Batistella (2005) mentions that there are 4 types of taboo words are: epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. The researcher found two most dominant types out of four types, epithet and obscenity.

Epithet

Epithet include a variety of insults related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, physical appearance, and disability, such as, *b**ch*, *son of b**ch*, *f*gg*t*, *n*gg*r*, *b*str*t*rd*, *motherf**ker*. Epithet can arise because the person pronouncing the word is motivated out of frustration or anger.

Obscenity

Obscenity refers to expressions that are prohibited from public use because they are offensive to the senses, offensive, disrespectful, and morally abhorrent, Jay (2009). In addition, according to Batistella (2005), obscenity is defined as words or phrases related to gendered anatomy or sexual and excretory

functions, usually pronounced in a disrespectful manner. Words that belong to this type are *f**k* and *s**t*.

DISCUSSION

Data 1

“This is my *fucking* wedding day”

The word *f***ng* usually refers to a sexual act in its literal sense. Moreover, the word is severely restricted in public use, as its meaning can evoke abominations. According to Batistella (2005), profanity is defined as words or phrases that involve gendered anatomy or sexual and excretory functions, usually uttered in a disrespectful manner. In this case, Thomas used the word to confirm that it was his wedding anniversary. The word *f***ng* falls into the obscenity category.

Data 2

“Those *bastards*, out there, are their family”

The term *b**t**ds* can also be used to refer to the bride's family, enemies of the Thomas gang. In this context, it looks more arrogant and expresses anger. Jay (2009) defines an epithet as a brief but powerful burst of passionate speech triggered by frustration or anger. The word *b**t**ds* is classified as an epithet.

Data 3

“And if you *fuckers* do anything to embarrass her, your kin, your cousins, your horses, your *fucking* kids”

The word *f***rs* refer to Thomas' friends asking them not to misbehave so as to embarrass Thomas' wife. And the word *f***ng* is a continuation of Thomas' series of sentences which aims to convey a threat to his friend if he messes up. The word *f***ng* and *f***es* is classified into obscenity.

Data 4

“No *fucking* sucking petrol out of their *fucking* cars”

In this case, Thomas asks his friend not to steal petrol from the guests' car even though he knows that it is his enemy's car by inserting the word *fucking* in one sentence and saying it twice to emphasize his order. The word *f***ng* is also classified into obscenity.

Data 5

“But the main things is, you bunch of *fuckers*, No fighting, No *fucking* fighting”

Thomas said the taboo word *f***rs* referring to his friend, then he used the word *f***ng* to emphasize his order so that there would be no fighting at his wedding. The word *f***ng* and *f***es* is classified into obscenity.

Data 6

“NO FUCKING FIGHTING”

Thomas firmly shouted his order to his friend so that there would be no fights that day, The loud utterance of taboo words can also influence others, if in a movie it can influence the audience. McEdward (McGuire 1973) states that the speaker's interest should be aroused by using strong and forceful language whose implication can elicit an immediate reaction from the audience. Therefore, people use taboo words that are believed to be able to grab the listener's attention due to their strong connotations. The word *f***ng* is also classified into obscenity.

Data 7

“Get the *fuck* off me!”

Thomas was accidentally hit by a waitress working at his place. Thomas then uses the taboo word *f**k*. If the word *f**k* is used in society, it can cause conflict. Fitzgerald (2007) states that verbal profanity may be the most effective symbolic process offered to protesters to provoke confused reactions. The word *f**k* is categorized into obscenity.

CONCLUSION

The most type of taboo word uses is obscenity. The use of the word *f**k* in *Peaky Blinders* is a deliberate choice by the show's creators to reflect the language and culture of the time period in which the show is set. Researcher found 7 data from nine screenshots. Based on data the word *f**k* became the most of taboo word used by Thomas Shelby to express his feelings. The word *f**k* is used frequently throughout the show. The show is set in Birmingham, England in the aftermath of World War I, and the use of profanity is meant to reflect the rough and gritty nature of the time period. The word *f**k* is used as a form of emphasis, to convey strong emotions such as anger, frustration, or excitement

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