A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORDS IN SONG LYRIC ON "MUSIC TO BE MURDERED BY" ALBUM BY EMINEM

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Abstrak

This research aims to find the types and functions of taboo words in Eminem's "Music to Be Murdered By" album, using a sociolinguistic approach. Sociolinguistic, studies the social role of language, how language expresses social meaning and social relations, and how people communicate with each other with social identity through language and structure. To distinguish between good and bad language is a universal necessity (Holmes, 2013, p.1). This research uses qualitative descriptive method and Wardhaugh and Battistella's theory to analyze the types and functions of taboo words. The techniques of analyzing data are through three steps: data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing. The researcher finds 92 data deal with Wardhaugh and Batistella' Theory. The most dominant type of taboo words in this album is epithets. Overall, this study has the potential to provide greater insight into the use of language in popular media, particularly in music, and its impact on society. Through the analysis of taboo words, we not only study the linguistic aspects, but also reveal how language functions as a social instrument that can strengthen or undermine certain social structures. This study, therefore, can contribute to the development of a more critical and sensitive understanding of social, cultural, and ethical issues that develop in society. As the conclusions, four kinds of banned words were found by the study through analysis of nine chosen songs from the album: epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. As the suggestions, this research is expected to provide readers with a deeper understanding about taboo words in song, to be as reference to the next researchers. As the conclusions, four kinds of banned words were found by the study through analysis of nine chosen songs from the album: epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. As the suggestions, this research is expected to provide readers with a deeper understanding about taboo words in song, to be as reference to the next researchers.

Keywords: *Sociolinguistic, Taboo Words, Song Lyric*

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important tools in human interaction and communication is language (M*iller 1951, p1*). Language use and social structure are closely related. This phenomenon is studied in sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is the study of language and how language is used in social interaction. According to Wardhaugh (2006), sociolinguistics is a subfield of linguistics that focuses on examining the connections between language and society. Every person in the world uses language to communicate (Miller 1951 p1). People may comprehend the ideas and feelings of others through language. Even when speaking, people can express astonishment, anxiety, hate, irritation, and other emotions. Some people may choose to use strong language, such as language that is offensive, when they are surprised or disturbed. People often utilize gestures, attitudes, and phrases out of reflex when they are in this circumstance. Because these words and body language are often seen as impolite, vulgar, and possibly offensive, they are referred to as taboo words in language.

Words that are considered taboo are those that should only be used in certain contexts, especially in casual settings when their strong negative meaning makes them seem unfriendly.

Taboo words are widely used in everyday life. Communication, movies, and song lyrics. The type of song that uses the most taboo words is the Rap genre. Rap is a genre of music that is usually sung faster than it really is.

The world of rap cannot be separated from Eminem. Eminem is one of the most famous professional rappers. In each of Eminem's songs, he often inserts taboo words to clarify the emotions in the song. One of Eminem's album that was just released in 2019 yesterday, Eminem inserts a lot of taboo words in his song lyrics. Even in the name of the album "Music to Be Murdered By" the word "murdered" has been tucked in.

Any activity that is restricted or avoided in a culture because it is deemed taboo is considered to be harmful to the community as a whole. This is a very

tight politeness limit. Many things cannot be spoken in a language, or certain items can only be used in certain contexts. Saying forbidden words, such as those that pertain to sex or the physical characteristics of persons, might insult someone. (Wardaugh 2006, p 239).

Taboo words are those that are deemed inappropriate to use in a given social, cultural, or religious setting. According to Gao (in Hanafi et al., 2023), a "taboo" refers to a cultural or religious custom that prohibits people from engaging in certain actions, using specific objects, or discussing certain topics because it may lead to offense and embarrassment.

Both in public and private contexts, taboo content can be found in a variety of media, including songs, TV episodes, movies, and social media. As a language unto itself, music uses both language and sound to create a potent medium for communication and fostering bonds within communities and between people.

Songs in particular have the power to teach moral principles while also providing amusement. On the other hand, certain songs could inadvertently contain offensive language in their lyrics. Understanding the purpose and significance of these taboo words employed in the song's lyrics is essential to avoiding any misreading or misapplication of the moral lesson it conveys.

There is a similar study of taboo words in song, conducted by (Yanelia et al., 2020) entitled “Taboo words in the lyrics of cardi B on Album invasion privacy”. The purpose of this study is to describe the type, functions and meanings of taboo words by using Batistella’s theory (2005) to classify the type of taboo words, to analyze the functions used Wardaugh’s theory, and the meaning categorized using Geoffrey’s theory. In this study the author discovered four types and four functions of taboo words. Furthermore, the writer found there are two taboo meanings.

Based on explanation above, this makes researcher interested in examining what types of taboo words and function of taboo words in the song lyrics. The researcher chose lyrics, especially rap song, as a data source rather than all other types of songs because rap songs often contain taboo words. This relates to the lives of many people in America who face racism, fighting, or drug problems. They rap to avoid gangs. Applying pressure and still earning respect, how to deal with losing a friend to a shooting or drug overdose, and solving political problems. However, rap music lyrics can also be expressions of real human life. Therefore, researcher believe that lyrics, especially rap songs, can serve as a data source. The researcher used 9 songs from Eminem's album "Music to Be Murdered by" as a sample. The sampling process is carried out using Purposive sampling. This album contains rap song. In this song, the singer often uses taboo words in the lyrics to express his feelings.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Method used in this research is qualitative descriptive methods. In analyzing taboo words on lyric song "music to be murdered by" Eminem album, the researcher uses a sociolinguistic approach. Qualitative research is a method of investigating the state of natural objects (as opposed to experimenin which the researcher serves as the primary instrument, data collection techniques are triangulated (combined), data analysis is qualitative and inductive, and the emphasis of the research findings is on meaning rather than generalization.(sugiyono, 2011 p.9)

The data were collected using documentation method. Documentation is a method used to obtain data and information in the form of books, archives, documents, written numbers and pictures in the form of reports and information that can support research. (sugiyono, 2011 p.240)

The data in this research are collected through the song lyric on "Music to Be Murdered By" by Eminem's Album. It was released on January 17, 2020.

In this research, the researcher used data analysis based on Miles and Huberman (sugiyono, 2011 p.246) which includes three steps: data reduction, data

presentation and conclusion drawing. The first step is the researcher identified and classified the types of taboo words in the song album “Music to be Murdered by” Eminem. The second step the researcher describes the data and relates it to several theories and references. The last step the researcher draw conclusions from the results of this study.

RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher found 4 types of taboo words in “”Music To Be Murdered By” Eminems Song.

Table 1, Types of Taboo Words

Types of Taboo Words	Data Found
Epithets	46
Vulgarity	9
Obscenity	30
Profanity	8
Total	**93**

From the results of the analysis, researcher find 93 data in Song Lyric on “Music To Be Murdered By” Album By Eminem. The first is epithets 46 data, vulgarity 9 data, obscenity 30 data, profanity 8 data.

Epithets

In epithets researcher found 46 data in Music To Be Murdered album entitled “unaccomodating”, “those kinda night”, “godzilla”, “no regret”, “leaving heaven”, “yah-yah”, “lock it up”, “tone deaf” which are described bellow.

Based on findings the most dominant taboo words is the word “bitch” (refer to data 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46). According to Battistella the word bitch is

Nicknames, occur because the person saying them expresses their hatred, frustration, or anger about something. Therefore, they use emotional language and address taboo topics toward others.

Based on finding, In the data found Eminem used the word "Bitch" to describe a woman (refer to data 1), however, what Eminem meant was not to describe women in a positive sense, but Eminem's intention was to describe women who were dancing provocatively with derogatory connotations. But in some of Eminem's song lyrics, this word is used to clarify the emotions in the lyrics. For example, in data 32, this lyric explains that Eminem has won and the battle is over, bitch said to this lyric in order to strengthen the emotions in the song as well as to mention his critics, who lost. In line with Battistella, the data also falls into name calling and insult types, according to timothy jay, bitch words are categorized into name calling and insult, "insults, name mentions and ethnic insults. Like cursing, such words are spoken with the aim of hurting, degrading, and deteriorating the listener (Jay, 1996: 22). In line with the statement with Jay, Wardhaugh revealed that taboo words also have a function in their use, one of the dominant taboo functions found in this type is the function to show contempt. According Wardhaugh, The idea that something or someone has no value and ought to be disregarded on its own is known as contempt. In general, people who use strong language to communicate their emotions have the ability to influence others by providing information that would hurt their self-esteem.

The term "bitch" has seen complicated and contentious changes in American culture in recent years. The word was originally meant to refer to a female dog, but from the fifteenth century, it has been used to denigrate women, particularly to make fun of or upset those who are thought to be unpleasant or overbearing. In recent decades, there have been significant efforts to redefine the term in many contexts, especially in pop culture and the feminist movement. For example, some women have begun using this phrase positively as a form of self-reprimand, referring to themselves as “boss bitch” or “bad bitch,” meaning strength, determination, and grit. Analysis conducted by linguists such as Karen Stollznow shows that the meaning of the word "bitch" varies depending on the

context and the person using it. In some contexts, this phrase can refer to a show of sympathy or solidarity between participants, while in other contexts, it can also refer to a very detrimental deception.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

When taboo phrases from Eminem's album "Music to Be Murdered By" are examined, their significance in social and cultural contexts becomes clear. According to Battistella, four kinds of banned words were found by the study through analysis of nine chosen songs from the album: epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. The following is a summary of the findings: Call-sign The term that was discovered is "Bitch," which is typically used to convey hate, annoyance, or fury. Eminem employs the term "bitch" to make provocative remarks about women and to heighten the emotional content of his tracks. The primary purpose is to convey disdain. The meaning of the term has changed, and some people are using it again to denote strength and determination in empowering situations like "bad bitch" or "boss bitch." Then came the profanity. "Damn" is the most common word in this category. used to express intense feelings like surprise or annoyance. Although it was once connected to profanity, it is now seen as a minor expletive in contemporary speech. It is less appropriate in formal or religious circumstances, yet being more acceptable in casual speech. "ass" is the most common word associated with vulgarity. in Operation either insulting or describes anatomy. Eminem utilizes the term "ass" to allude to past mistreatment experiences as well as a physical characteristic. Commonly employed for dramatic or comic effect in informal contexts, such as the media. While this kind is more acceptable in informal situations, it is not appropriate in formal or business contexts. The final category is obscenity. The word "Fuck" is most frequently found. Usually used to convey strong feelings like rage and dissatisfaction. "Fuck" is a term used by Eminem to highlight attacks and disparage his detractors.

Taboo words are an effective means of emphasizing a point and expressing strong feelings. Depending on the audience and situation, taboo words can have very different levels of acceptability and impact. Over time, there has been a significant change in how some taboo terms are perceived and used, particularly in pop culture and among younger people. These words have a variety of purposes, including making insults, drawing attention, and enhancing social identity and group cohesion.

A thorough understanding of the larger dynamics of forbidden word use in American culture can be gained from analyzing Eminem's lyrics. Even though they are frequently contentious, these phrases are crucial for communication since they convey both personal feelings and general society views. This study demonstrates how banned phrases may simultaneously empower, offend, and convey deeply held views, highlighting the intricate relationships between language, emotions, and cultural norms.

Suggestions

Suggestions for the next researchers can be used as a reference, especially for students of English Literature Department in understanding the taboo word in song lyrics.

The researcher also suggests for next researchers who are interested in analyzing the taboo words in Eminem's song on the album "Music to be Murdered by", there are still many weakness in this research, therefore it would be more interesting for other researchers to develop it.

This research still has several weaknesses, one of which is that this research is still limited to the 9 songs on the album "Music to be Murdered by".

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