



ENGLISH TABOO LANGUAGE IN “WADE” MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this qualitative research was to identify the types and function of taboo language used by the characters in the "Wade" movie. This research applied the theories of Battistella (2005) to identify the types of taboo language. The data were taken from all of the characters' taboo language-expressing utterances. This study used the observational method and non-participatory technique by using Sudaryanto's (2015) theory to gather data. This research used identity method data and referential competence in equalizing technique (Sudaryanto, 2015). The findings of this study were presented as follows. First, the characters in the Wade movie use four different sorts of taboo language. They were obscenity, vulgarity, profanity, and epithet. Obscenity, epithets, vulgarity, and profanity were the most often utilized taboos, accounting for 12 of the 30 data points from the Wade movie. Second, the movie Wade had 30 instances of four prohibited language functions. Profanity appeared as the latest. The reason for the seven instances of scorn, the twelve instances of self-promotion, the six instances of provocativeness, and the two instances of mocking authority was that the major theme of the film is a romantic comedy, which was not criticized much to the institution such as government and organization in society.

Keywords: *Sociolinguistic, Taboo language, Taboo language-expressing utterances.*

1. Introduction

It is believed that language possesses unique abilities to treat illness, ward off evil, bring about one's own good, and hurt one's enemies. The idea that words have the power to alter things, people, and spirits has permeated human thought since

antiquity. Such language is typically used with caution, paying close attention to wording and pronunciation. The words or expressions that are considered inappropriate, offensive and vulgar in certain societies are called taboo.



The concept of taboo has spread throughout the world and has grown so sensitive that it now extends to language. Some topics, sentences, and even certain words have become banned to debate because of how sensitive they are. Some prohibited words and expressions have been used for so long that they are now widely used. Because taboos are broken so frequently, they are no longer regarded as taboo.

One of the many things cannot control in this social media age is the use of taboo words. The ability to express one's emotions through social media is one of the key reasons people utilize it (Panger, 1967). Initially, research into topics like information sharing was dominated by cognitive perspectives on social media, but currently interest is growing in the subject of emotions and their significance on social media. Using prohibited language on social media is one technique to communicate emotions. Researcher discovered a taboo language phenomenon on social media.

The first phenomenon occurs between Lampung DPRD members and the community

(<https://video.tribunnews.com/view/612968>). The DPRD member said **"Rincian-rincian bisa dibuat, muka mu, asu kamu!"** The use of taboo language does not see one's age. The use of taboo language can be spoken by anyone, even educated people. "Asu" is a taboo language expressed by a member of DPRD to the community where the word "asu" is highly avoided in a conversation because it is offensive. Based on the explanation from Battistella (2005) the taboo language above belongs to the type of **vulgarity**.

The second phenomenon of taboo language appeared in the action movie. One of the phenomenon taboo language

can be found in Dead Pool movie as stated below.

Wade : "What, you mean that your...."

Vanessa : "Baby factory's open for business."

Wade : **"Oh, my God!** I want a boy! Or a little girl! Definitely one or the other!"

When Wade returns home from an assassination mission, the aforementioned conversation appeared. His wife, Vanessa, catches him off guard when she informed him that his birth control has been taken out so they can have their own kids. This is a pleasant, reflective period in the scenario, just as it is for people like them who have both finally made the decision to settle down in their lives. In the dialogue that came before, the exclamation **"Oh, my God!"** highlighted the word "God." Additionally, it qualifies as profanity since it openly uses a religious phrase and sacred word—the word "God," which is revered by those who practice religion, several researcher have carried out taboo language research.

Laili (2020) studied about the types and function taboo language in Bad Moms movie. Using a descriptive qualitative method and sociolinguistics, the study of the taboo language used by the mothers in the movie Bad Moms aims to comprehend and make the language the object. This research applies the theory from Battistella (2005) to the data analysis.

Second, the prohibited language in the movie Alpha Dog is discussed by (Resiana Serti et al., 2023). He explained the different types and functions of the taboo language employed by the characters in the movie Alpha Dog. He claimed that people regularly utilize prohibited words when expressing an emotional condition. It is feasible that different cultures have



varied forbidden language usage criteria or that nothing is ever taboo for anyone, under any circumstance, at any time (Resiana Serti et al., 2023). In order to define taboo, this research used theory from Battistella (2005) when assessing the data.

This current research mentioned many forms of taboo language. The varieties of taboo language as well as its purpose were examined in the current study. The same theory put out by Battistella (2005) was used by the previous and the current research. Additionally, outdoor research is not used in previous or current research; instead, data is obtained via movies. Overall, the only distinction between the previous research and the current research is in the data source.

2. Literature Review

In daily life, language serves as the major form of communication. The use of a system of sounds and words to communicate is referred to as language in the context of communication. Language is a tool for social engagement and human communication. Individuals with their unique personality traits, attitudes, beliefs, and emotions are always a part in communication. Language is a social phenomenon that is utilized as a means of transmitting ideas to others, allowing people to control their relationships and maintain their status as social creatures in society.

People in a society must engage with one another, or in this case, they must be aware of the social standards that govern what it means to behave morally. According to Macionis (2016), society is "a group of people who interact within a small territory under the direction of their culture." It is impossible for language and

society to coexist without one another. There are various instances when language and society interact. One illustration is how linguistic usage varies depending on socioeconomic rank in a society. In Indonesian society, younger people typically use formal language when speaking to older people. But occasionally, the roles are flipped, and an older person addresses a younger person in a formal manner. The social standing of the two individuals matters in this situation. The elder individual with a lower social position must use formal language when conversing with the younger person with a higher status. This is an illustration of the interconnectedness of language and society and how social conditions can affect how language is used.

Taboo language is used to refer to topics that should be avoided and avoided at all costs. According to Keith and Burrige (2006), taboo arises from social restrictions on behavior, which can be uneasy, hurtful, and damaging. Because it causes discomfort, harm, and injury, taboo with a vulgar sense is something that people in society are supposed to avoid. Freitas (2008) claimed that people may view some phrases and expressions as forbidden, especially when they are employed by people from different socioeconomic classes. As said by Battistella (2005), there are four categories of forbidden words namely epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity.

2.1 Epithets

Epithets is different forms of types of words or phrases containing slurs of ethnicity, racial slurs, slurs of gender, sexual slurs, or of appearance slurs. A bitch, motherfucker, and tit-man are some taboo language that belongs to this type. An epithet arises because the person out of



frustration or indignation. According to Prayuda et al (2019), the use of animal terms, such as bullshit, shit, dog, or pig, is also classified as an epithet. In a nutshell, epithets include any form of swearing that refers to social issues. Here is an example:

Employee : “You **motherfucker**, you can’t get any 44, pick up the cock sucking phone!”

Jordan : “Sorry.”(Prayuda et al., 2019)

The language used is identified as epithets, because mother fucker is a way to refer to a person or a thing that is annoying or unpleasant, one that is often shortened to mother. In this dialogue, employees call a Jordan to pick up the phone.

2.2 Profanity

Profanity is defined as the use of religious terms and language in a secular context without intending to disparage God or anything associated with religion. The definition of "profanity" is a statement including the use of religious terms in a disparaging, secular, or callous manner. This statement may be used to express an emotional reaction to specific motivations, even when the speaker does not intend to denigrate God or religion in any way. Hell, Jesus, Christ, goddamn, holy shit, and other expletives are examples of words. Here is an example.

David : “Wait...Greg Buell. He went to our school, right?”

Jimmy : “Yo..., I got to save up some money and get the **hell** out of here. This shit is ridiculous.

(Budi,

Setyaningsih, 2017)

Jimmy uses the word "hell" in the conversation with David above when David inquires as to whether Greg Buell, who resides in the same home as Jimmy's

mother, is a classmate. Jimmy answers affirmatively, adding the term "hell" to underscore his desire to leave his mother's home because he finds cohabiting with her partner to be absurd.

2.3 Vulgarity

A coarse phrase used to describe sexual anatomy and excretory function is "vulgarity." A raw form of street language is vulgarity. According to Laili (2020), when something or someone is alluded to or characterized using vulgar language, it is done to denigrate or humiliate them. Examples of this kind of word include as, t*t, c**k, d**k, and cunt. An illustration of this kind of statement is the one that follows.

Amy : “Your fucking **dick** would explode.”

Mike : “My d*ck would never explode cause it's indestructible.”

Mike and Amy argue in front of the psychiatrist until Amy becomes enraged and threatens to destroy one of Mike's vital organs. Mike's vital organ is referred to as "di*k" by Amy.

2.4 Obscenity

Use of certain language is forbidden and is referred to as obscenity in public when discussing sexual activity because they are considered morally offensive because they mention disgusting topics like sexual activities and genitalia. Furthermore, because it encourages specific sex actions or parables, Fazri (2022) viewed obscenity in human morality as repulsive and disrespectful. Fuck and shit are included in this category. Here is the example.

Amy : “I know we make fun of them, but fuck, I love them so much.”

Kiky : “Me too.”

Amy explains to her buddy that she will be overjoyed if her kids lead happy lives. She says the sexual activity-related word



"fuck." By using this colloquial language, she uses the word to emphasize how she feels and to get her friend's attention.

3. Research Method

This research was of a qualitative research because the data sources, the data analysis, and the findings of the data analysis were displayed in words, phrases, and sentences. Creswell (2007) stated that the foundation of qualitative research is an assumption, global viewpoint, potential use of theoretical lenses, and examination of the significance that individuals or groups ascribe to social problems. Observational method is a method of collecting data by observing data source theorized by Sudaryanto (2015). For the technique, this research conducted non-participatory technique. Non-participatory technique means data from research which the researcher not involved in the dialogue being studied (Sudaryanto, 2015). Following the collection of data, various steps are required for analysis. First, the researcher watched the movie to look for the context related to the utterance that is categorized into taboo words. The context is very important in taboo because it helps to find out the meaning that is not stated by the speaker based on the theory. Second, this researcher analyzed the data collected by explaining the context that occurs when the character utterances. Finally, the data collected were evaluated to answer the research question. After the data was collected, the referential identity method was used in the data analysis (Sudaryanto, 2015). The referential identity method deals with the relationship between a language and certain entities outside the referenced language. In other words, with each utterance, the competence of specific actions in relation

to the context situation increases. In addition, the researcher used referential competence-in equalizing technique to equalize the data and the theory (Sudaryanto, 2015). Presenting the results of the analysis was the final step in this research. It applied the informal method that relates to the way of presenting the results analyzed using words (Sudaryanto, 2015). The results were conveyed using words and sentences descriptively and analytically to let the readers understand easily.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Results

For the results, a total of 30 data were produced by the characters in "Wade" movie. From a total of 30 data, the researcher discovered 4 types of banned words such as profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, and epithets. They are all mentioned in the dialogue spoken by the movie characters. It was discovered 7 data of epithet, 2 data of profanity, 7 data of vulgarity, and 14 data of obscenity.

4.2 Discussion

Data 1

Police: Hard left, **douchebag**. (00:45:24)

The monologue above happens when prison guards directing Wade and Russel to their room. At the moment Wade and Russel as a newcomer was on their way to prison room. Prison guard offensively pointed to their room by saying **douchebag**. **Douchebag** directed towards Wade and Russell in order to insult them. In this case, the prison guard uses an epithet to insult or demean being addressed to Wade and Russel. "Douchebag" is a derogatory and offensive term used to insult someone by implying



they are stupid, annoying, or contemptible. It is an insulting **epithet** meant to demean the individual it is directed towards.

Data 2

Wade: I don't speak Cantonese, Mister..Well, I'm not even gonna attempt that. But I did take 8th grade Spanish, so... Which literally translates to. I don't bargain, **pumpkin fucker** (00:02:57 – 00:03:23)

Wade used the above monologue when threatening the Spanish. Wade disregards that person's responses because he does not understand Spanish. While phoning the Spanish, Wade used the pornographic phrase "pumpkin fucker." Wade called the Spanish people "pumpkin fuckers. In the dialogue provided, there is a use of taboo language in the form of an **epithet** when Wade was insulting and directed at another character. Taboo language describes expressions that are deemed rude, unsuitable, or socially unacceptable in particular settings. Epithet is specific types of taboo language that involve name-calling or using derogatory terms to describe or refer to someone. In this case, the taboo language used is "pumpkin fucker." The term "pumpkin fucker" is an offensive and derogatory epithet directed at an unspecified individual. It is meant to insult and demean the person, and it is clearly inappropriate language.

Data 3

Wade: You killed Black Tom, you're racist **son of a bitch!** (1:19:37 – 1:19:40)

Wade made the aforementioned remark during the combat scene in which he battles Cable to save Russell. Cable tries to shoot Wade, but Wade deftly avoids his bullets. However, Tom, a prisoner, was unintentionally injured by the bullets.

Wade calls Cable a son of a bitch to communicate his thoughts towards him since he is angry at having shot an innocent person, at least during the fight scene. Because the word "bitch" pertains to animal terminology, it is classified as an **obscenity**. The word "bitch" has been reclaimed by the feminist spirit because it was a derogatory term that frequently appeared in the bold titles of minor feminist organizations. For instance, the term "bitch" is frequently used as an insult since it implies that the target individual has a cruel mentality.

Data 4

Vanessa : Baby factory's open for bussines

Wade : **Oh, my god!** I want a boy!
Or a little girl! Definetly one or the other!
(1:15:21 – 1:15:27)

The conversation mentioned above occurs after Wade returns home from his assassination job. His wife, Vanessa, catches him off guard when she informs him that his birth control has been taken out so they can have children of their own. The situational background here is a lovely, reflective moment, as it's common for people like them to ultimately decide to settle down in their life. In the dialogue above, the exclamation "Oh, my God!" emphasizes the word "God" more. Since it directly uses a religious term and sacred word. It is sacred for those who practice a religion, for example—this type of curse expression is undoubtedly considered profane, both literally and in its context. Even though it doesn't seem offensive to other people, it has been classified as **profanity**.

Data 5

Weasles : Isn't that Canada?



Wade : You shut your **goddamn** trash mouth! (1:06:12 – 1:06:16)

The dialogue above takes place when Wade is looking for candidates to be part of his team for the rescue of Russell. Wade is interviewing several people, most of them mutants, to see if they're up to the task or not. The dialogue takes place during Wade's interview with Weasel, who is arguing with him about Rusty's Mojo-based power. In the dialogues mentioned above, the exclamation "goddamn" is a **profanity** since it refers to a religious concept, god. This exclamation is about to become more crass than any previous type of profanity, though, with the inclusion of damn.

Data 6

Wade : Another disgusting mutant off the streets. God bless America. Let's get a taco.

Prison guard : Nighty-night, you annoying **prick!** (00:45:34 – 00:45:44)

The moment happens when police guard escorted Wade to cell. Prison guard escorted Wade in a rude way and hit him. Prison guard also call Wade as a prick. Prick is a noun which categorize into **vulgarity** because it is related to the male sex anatomy. Due of how embarrassing it is to discuss taboo topics involving the human body, it was reflected in street jargon. The dialogue provided contains instances of taboo language, which refers to words or expressions that are considered socially unacceptable, offensive, or impolite in certain contexts.

Data 7

Wade : What's your super power? Cultural appropriation?

Tom Cassidy : You're supposed to be the toughest **cunt** in here. You don't look like much to me. (00:50:25 – 0:50:34)

The conversation above happened in jail when lunch time. At the moment Wade wanted to eat his food but Tom Cassidy came with an arrogant face. Tom Cassidy was senior in that jail while Wade was at the first day there. When Tom Cassidy was sitting close to Wade's table, Wade asked about Tom's strength to underestimate him. Tom Cassidy did not like about Wade's question and said Wade is the toughest cunt in that jail. Tom Cassidy felt like he was humiliated by Wade as a result he utterances cunt. It was clearly highlighted the **vulgarity** in Tom's utterance.

Data 8

Wade: Holy mommy fucking **shit!** Ah, there they are. (1:12:55 – 1:12:72)

The aforementioned monologue took place after Wade's X-Force crew had successfully completed their mission to rescue the irate Russel and battle the crazed Juggernaut by jumping out of the plane. Wade jumps out of the plane as soon as his parachute is opened, just as he had intended. As a result, he stumbles and becomes entangled in a traffic sign. He watches as the majority of his pals struggle to land while he makes an effort to exit. Wade, who is at the time experiencing mental shock, promptly comes up with an expletive to explain his feelings. Although it is more closely related to vulgarity or profanity, because of how it is used in speech, it is more likely to be classified as an obscenity. The term "shit" is included in obscenity since it is used to describe human excrement (Battistella, 2005). Additionally, it is classified as an **obscenity**. According to societal norms, it does not refer to a person or item and is more likely



to serve as an emphasis of the speaker's feelings.

Data 9

Cable arrived while Wade and Althea were being visited by Domino, Weasel, and Dopinder in their apartment. He came to seek assistance and to negotiate a deal with them to prevent Russell from killing the Headmaster.

Cable : Your boy's gonna kill the Headmaster of the orphanage tonight. After that, he gets a real taste for it.

Dopinder: Like 10-year-old Kristen Dust, **motherfucker!**

Cable : So, he keeps killing, killing, killing and killing. Until one day, he kills the fucking people. (1:17:25 – 1:17:46)

Wade is in his apartment, waiting for his legs to grow back after being torn apart by the Juggernaut. He was visited by Domino, Weasel, and Dopinder as well. Althea asks for an explanation because she is curious about what happened. While they are debating the situation, Cable pays them a visit. Being from the future, he is aware of what will take place when Russell escapes the Ice Box. He tells them about Russell's plans with the Juggernaut and suggests that they devise their own plan to stop them. Based on the dialogue provided, the phrase "motherfucker" is considered **obscenity** because it combines a vulgar term for sexual activity with an insulting term.

Data 10

Wade: This kid's adorable. I don't know why I packed the hollow points.

Russel: I'll burn your **balls** off! First day. (00:39:30 – 00:39:32)

The dialogue happens when Russell makes a ruckus in the city that the police are unable to handle. At the moment Wade

comes to control Russell. Russell angrily says that he will burn Wade's balls. For a while, there was a fight between them. And in the end, Wade is able to overcome Russell to make him unconscious. The dialogue above clearly shows that Russell uttered the taboo language balls which means male genitals. Russell utters it to show his dislike for Wade who is considered an obstacle to what he is doing. Russell's taboo language indirectly shows his disrespect for Wade as Russell thinks Wade is trying to get in his way. Thus, it was classified as **vulgarity**.

5. Conclusion

Depending on the person's age, there are standards and distinctions for language use in middle-class culture. Language can describe how the user is, where there is a separation between the higher and lower classes, between the knowledgeable and the uneducated, or between one sphere and another, even when street slang or terminology that shouldn't be used are first used and shown in films. For these reasons, this researcher discovered that the study's goal is to identify the categories of forbidden words that, with different frequency, have negative meanings and implications. These language types include epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. The forbidden language in the "Wade" movie includes insults, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. Out of 25 data points, epithet and obscenity are most frequently used, appearing 7 times. The movies made an effort to stay true to the character's established features in the original material by including epithets and obscenities.

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