

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Throughout their lives, people always need and depend on the presence and help of other people. It happens because people are naturally social and need others to survive and be healthy. As a result, people need to build good relationships with others by creating community social networks. Communication and building connections through language is a way for people to meet their need for interpersonal connection. Communication through language is letting people share knowledge, thoughts, feelings, and even emotional states. Language is a way for people to communicate effectively with each other, allowing both parties to understand and comprehend. Language is an integral part of the human experience because it is how people talk to each other and connect. Language is a way for people to share ideas, knowledge, and feelings (Adillah, 2022). Texting and talking are both important ways to communicate.

Using language to reveal or hide their identity, character, and background is something that people do unconsciously, according to Yuldashev (2022) and Chaika (1982: 2). So, each person has their unique way of choosing a language variety that makes them feel like they belong. Some people may like to use word combinations with solid emotional effects when sad or angry. For instance, some people use certain words that are considered inappropriate, making them unusable. Using swear language is a way for people to show how they feel. People often use

taboo words to show how unhappy they are because those words are the strongest at expressing sadness. People sometimes put much stock in the good intentions of others. Taboos are things that people in a specific society do not do because they think they go against religious beliefs, rules, and norms. Using the given meaning, we can assume that taboo words are unacceptable because they might break legal, cultural, or social rules. Akmajin (1998: 322) says that taboos are words or phrases people in a particular group do not dare use.

Because of this, it is best not to use taboo words or, at the very least, be careful when using them in social situations. Even though some people think taboo words are bad because they might make others feel bad, they are still free to use them. How people think about "taboo" words has recently changed (Anggita, 2015). People's attitudes changed because punishments for certain behaviors decreased, making them more likely to adopt a more open-minded view and use language that was once considered offensive.

There has been an increase in the use of taboo words to show how someone feels. Media like films, songs, and TV shows use a "taboo lexicon" to avoid certain words or phrases. These sources have many taboo words because some think using such language is an excellent way to show strong emotions or feelings, mainly through cursing (Putri & Barnabas, 2019). People use swear words and other inappropriate language to show anger and intense feelings of friendship, closeness, or connection in certain social groups. Therefore the study of taboo words is critical because they are not pleasant. It can help people learn how to communicate better with each other. People in the same community may

have different ideas about what words are offensive compared to people in other communities because of their different cultures (Adillah, 2022). Because of this, it is crucial to carefully examine how taboos are used in a specific group to find out which ones are enforced there.

Heartbreak High is the latest Australian drama series which can be watched on September 14, 2022, written by Hannah Carroll Chapman, Ben Gannon, and Michael Jenkins. "The Heartbreak High" series can be watched via Netflix with eight episodes. The series is an Australian reboot that debuted in 1994 on Network 10. "The Heartbreak High" series stars Aisyah Madon, James Majoos, Chloe Hayden, Asher Yasbincek, Thomas Weatherall, and Will McDonald.

People who go to Hartley High School in Sydney are the focus of this new show. An outcast student at this school called Amarie is having a hard time because she made a controversial mural that showed everyone's secret relationships at Hartley High. Then, there are issues between Amarie and her best friend, Harper. Harper is typically lovely, but her bad mood comes from her punk style. In order to do this, Amarie meets new people and becomes friends with Quinn and Darren, two students from other countries. Darren is a student with autism and a friend of Quinn. Darren is African American and has become queer and non-binary. Amarie, on the other hand, is also trying to find a way to get her good name back as a recognized student. However, love troubles must be getting in the way of his work.

The researcher is interested in analyzing this series because the researcher wants to analyze the representation of the lives of teenagers by raising stories of high school romance and all kinds of anxiety experienced by teenagers which are mostly expressed in words. Thus understanding taboo and swear words is important in order that one can decide what kinds of responses he/she needs to give upon hearing the words and also it can help to avoid misunderstanding in communication. Moreover, research on taboo and swear words found in *The Heartbreak High* series has never been done previously. Not only that, the reason for choosing this series is because it contains a significant amount of taboo and swear words, which sets it apart from other series. This unique feature makes it an interesting subject for analysis and study. Unlike many other series that may not use such language extensively, this one provides a distinctive perspective on the use of taboo and profanity in media and storytelling. By exploring the prevalence and context of these words in this particular series, researchers can gain insights into how language is employed to convey emotions, create character dynamics, and contribute to the overall narrative. As an example:

- Amerie asks, "What's that?"
- Harper responds, "It's a crocodile."
- Amerie then exclaims, "It's *shit*."

In this exchange, Amerie uses the word "shit" to express her negative opinion or disdain for the crocodile. This usage of the profanity "shit" is colloquial and often employed to convey strong disapproval or disappointment. The choice of such a word in this context suggests that Amerie has a strong

negative reaction to the crocodile or finds it highly undesirable. Profanity like this can serve to intensify emotional reactions or emphasize the speaker's point of view in informal conversations.

### **B. Problems of The Study**

Based on the background of study above, the problems that can be proposed are as follows:

1. What are the types of taboo and swear words uttered by the main characters in *The Heartbreak High* series?
2. How are taboo and swear words realized by the main characters in *The Heartbreak High* series?
3. How are the emotional conditions of the main characters in *The Heartbreak High* series when using swear words?

### **C. Objectives of The Study**

Based on the identification of these problems, the objectives of the analysis are as follows:

1. To identify the types of taboo and swear words uttered by the main characters in *The Heartbreak High* series.
2. To describe taboo and swear words realized in the utterances of the main characters in *The Heartbreak High* series.
3. To explain the emotional conditions of the main characters in *The Heartbreak High* series when using swear words.

#### **D. Scope of The Study**

1. Based on the identification of the problems, there are limitations to the problem so that it is not too broad to be studied. The researcher limited this research to focus only on the types of taboo and swear words and the emotional of the main characters in The *Heartbreak High* series namely Amerie and Harper. The researchers will implement the theory of taboo and swear words by Swan (1995) and theory of constructed emotions by Barrett (1985: 114).

#### **E. Significances of The Study**

The researcher expects this research is useful both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretical Benefits.

The results of this study are expected to be able to provide a theoretical explanation related to the research problems. These theories are expected to be the basis for explaining research problems. These theories are needed to broaden the reader's insight about taboo and swear words and its relationship to emotional condition.

2. Practical Benefits.

The author hope that this research will be of direct benefit to readers, linguistic observers, language teachers, as well as to the researchers themselves. It is hoped that this will be useful as information and insight that is related to taboo and swear words and its relationship to emotional condition.