

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

Taboo terms were firstly introduced by Captain Cook in the late 18th century when he was sent to Tahiti. According to Allan and Burrige (2006: 2-3), taboo or known as tabu is a Tongan term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous and therefore it must be avoided. The example of this case can be seen in Nguni societies of Southern Africa. In Nguni, it is forbidden for a woman to mention her husband and father-in-law's name directly. If she violates this rule, she will be punished by the rule in the society. In every culture, there are both taboo acts which are things that are not supposed to do and taboo words which are things that are not supposed to say. Both are related to each other because some taboo act have corresponding taboo words, while others do not (Fairman, 2009:27). The example of this case is the act of incest which is known as taboo so is the motherf**ker that denotes incest activity. However, there are other words that are considered as taboo while the action they denote is not considered as taboo. When people talk about sex, it is often considered as taboo while the act itself is not forbidden if it is done by the appropriate person in suitable place and time. Therefore, words that are related or linked to taboo act will automatically become taboo words (Allan and Burrige, 2006: 2)

Wardhaugh (2000) said that taboo is prohibition or avoidance that cannot be used by human being in any society because it will hurt its members and make them feel anxious, embarrassment, or shame. Taboo words are always considered

as inappropriate words to utter in daily conversation, because these taboo words are associated to harsh meaning. For Indonesian people taboo words are the same as reproach.

However, there are still argumentations in defining the taboo words by human being. Some people think and believe that taboo is something that has negative meaning, and emotion to express the negative types of feeling towards the others, especially when it used in public areas or to someone who older than us. On the other hand, nowadays the attitude towards the function of taboo words has already changed. Based on Anggita (2015), she said that the changes happened because of the legal sanctions were getting more relaxed to accept taboo words.

Taboo words are always associated with inappropriate language and it cannot be used in daily conversations. Therefore, taboo words still manage as offensive and savage words in most languages, such as English. Long time ago in America, there were strict rules to avoid the use of taboo words in public such as in printed media. The use of taboo words such as fuck and cunt would lead to prosecution and imprisonment so that they were not used in printed media such as newspaper. However, it seems that nowadays the attitude towards the function of taboo words has already changed. The changes happened because the legal sanctions were disappearing and there were tendency that now in some society, people are getting more relaxed to accept taboo words. As a result, taboo words are now commonly found when someone expresses the emotive feeling. The existence of taboo words, the norms of using taboo words may vary among societies, or it can be concluded that nothing is taboo for all people under all

circumstances for all time. The list of taboos and their importance may change over time, it also may weaken or even disappear, while others may become stronger and more dominant.

Now days, Taboo words can be easily found in daily life. The existence of taboo words can be seen from various sources such as in movies, song lyrics, and television shows. The existence of various taboo words in those sources is caused by the fact that some people believe that employing taboo words is an appropriate way to express a strong feeling and emotion, especially in the form of swearing. Taboo words in the form of swearing are not only uttered to express anger and emotive feeling but also uttered to express friendliness, familiarity, or identity among communities. In the sentence “*Hey you bastard!*” the word *bastard* means “friend”. It is usually uttered by American Negroes to call their close friend or their family. Therefore, nowadays people can accept the use of taboo words because it is considered as the best way to deliver their strongest feeling.

There are many media in which human beings may express and communicate their information, idea, thought, emotion, and desire by using language, our basic of communication (Griffie, 1995:4). In the hand of artist, the information, idea, thought, emotions, and desire are expressed in poem, prose, painting, drama, film, and music.

Music is called the language of emotions. Music can be a tool to share feeling between human beings. There are human beings who choose music to

express and share their own feeling because human beings have sense of music. Actually, music is not only music itself but also the lyric. Through the lyric, the readers or listeners will know the topic of the song. Song is a term of music. A song contains music and lyric. It is also one of the forms of music, which uses language. Every song has its own special arrangement in music and lyric. It is the way to tell a language. It is used by human to tell something in different ways. Through the song, the singer wants to tell the listeners about the writer's feelings that come from his/her heart. There are songs that tell about sadness, happiness, love, anger, social critique, etc. Songs speak to us directly about our experiences; they reassure us in our moments of trouble (Griffie, 1992: 4). It also tells something or someone's feeling that uses imaginative diction and rhyme. People almost hear songs every day, even the listeners can memorize the lyrics very well. It is very interesting to see how the composer plays with words and cords to convey the message, and it is very interesting to study or analyze something that people like very much. Music can be divided into different genres in many different ways, such as Pop, Rock, Jazz, Blues, Dangdut, Disco, Country, Musical, Reggae and Hip-Hop or Rap.

The previously research is "*Tendangan Dari Langit movie*" by Chotimah (2014). Her research is to described the types and the purposes of Javanese taboo words used by Pak Darto in *Tendangan Dari Langit movie*. The result of analysis, the writer found that Pak Darto used types of taboo words to express his feelings, they are one's mother in law, bodily function/human genitals term, death, excretion and creating game/animal. Furthermore, Pak Darto purposes in using the

taboo words, namely to discredit, to provoke violent confrontation, to an endearment and to provide catharsis. Another previous research is Gede (2013) has observed about The Function of Taboo Words and Their Expressions In Bad Boys Movie . The purpose of his study was to identify the types of their expressions used by the main cast and to categorize taboo words used by the main cast in the comedy action film titled Bad Boys. The results of this research show that the main character use expressions of taboo words for different purposes.

From the previous relevant studies above it is interesting to investigate the same topic by using a different theory and object. By using a different object, the researcher can show different results as it takes a different context.

Eminem is one of the rap singer. He is an American rapper, songwriter, and music producer. Eminem is one of the best-selling musicians of the 21st century and one of the most influential rappers of all time. Born Marshall Bruce Mathers III in 1972 in Missouri, Eminem had a turbulent childhood. He dropped out of school in the ninth grade and worked odd jobs until finally making it as a rapper upon the release of The Slim Shady LP in early 1999. In Eminem's song, it can be seen that so many taboo words available, for example, some lyrics from the "Cleaning out My Closet" Eminem's song lyrics.

See what hurts me the most is you won't admit you was wrong
Bitch do your song, keep telling yourself that you was a mom
 But how dare you try to take what you didn't help me to get
 You *selfish bitch*, I hope you *fucking* burn in *hell* for this *shit*
 Remember when Ronnie died and you said you wished it was me
 Well guess what, I'm dead- dead to you as can be

The lyrics contain some words that can be considered as taboo words, the researcher found in the fourth line they are bitch, fucking, hell and shit. According to an online oxford dictionary (2020), bitch means a female dog, wolf, fox, otter or informal meaning is a spiteful or unpleasant woman. And shit means an act of defecating, a contemptible or worthless person or something worthless, rubbish and nonsense. The words bitch can be categorized as epithet since the word is uttered with frustration or anger, it becomes emotional language.

Meanwhile the words Fuck means have a sexual intercourse with (someone) or damage and ruin (something). The words fuck and shit can be categorized as obscenity because it characterized sexual activity. But the word fucking does not actually mean “to have sexual intercourse” but it used to curse and show his disappointment through his mother.

The word Hell according to online oxford dictionary (2020) is a place regarded in various religion as a spiritual realm or evil and suffering, often traditionally depicted as a place of perpetual fire beneath the earth where the wicked are punished after death. The word hell can be categorized as profanity. Profanity usually indicates the religious cursing because it includes the foul-mouthed use of what is considered to be sacred. In this lyrics Eminem use the taboo word “hell” to express his anger, contempt toward his mother.

The function of the bitch, fuck, hell and shit According to Wardhaugh(2006: 239) is used to draw attention to himself. . In the lyrics of this song, Eminem wants to express his feelings to the listener through insult words directed at someone (his mom). He feels that his mom only take advantage from his popularity, neither being a real mom. Eminem express his anger about his

childhood. He described how his mother mentally abused him. So, he sings it to get attentions so the listener can feel his disappoint.

Another song are "I'm Not Afraid" being fearless about life and telling people you can face up to life. "Love The Way You Lie" rapping about how love in reality is actually very complicated yet so strong and beautiful. Things that matter to us the most; life, love, family, ect.

So, based on the phenomenon above, the research is conducted to analyze the taboo words in the lyrics of Eminem albums under the title *Taboo Words in Eminem Song Albums*.

1.2. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background study above, the problem are formulated as the following:

1. What categories of taboo are found in Eminem songs?
2. Why are they used in the way they are?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research are to:

1. Categorize the taboo words in Eminem songs.
2. Explain the causes of using the taboo word in Eminem lyric songs

1.4. Scope of the Study

This study will focus on the taboo words that exist in lyrics of Eminem song.

1.5. Significance of the Study

Regarding the background and the objectives of the research, the researcher expects that the research will contribute a great significance both theoretical and Practical. Theoretically, the research finding will give additional information to the other linguistic researchers. In practically, it is expected that the finding will give some benefits for certain parties.

1. To the university: this research can be used as a supplementary material for teaching activities especially in sociolinguistics subject.
2. To the other researchers: this research can be used as a valuable reference in investigating the same subject.
3. To the readers in common: through this research, the readers will have new knowledge about taboo words especially about the types of taboo words and the functions of taboo words in conversation. Moreover, the readers will be able to understand that taboo words are bad forms of language that cannot be spoken in any situation.
4. To rap music lovers this study help to offer a through overlook of how rappers construct the meaning in their lyrics.