

Taboo Words in Borat Movie

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Abstrak

Judul dari penelitian ini adalah “Taboo Words in Borat Movie” mengeksplorasi jenis dan fungsi dari kata-kata tabu pada film tersebut. Kata-kata tabu secara khusus diucapkan dalam percakapan informal atau dalam situasi tertentu yang mungkin sesuai dengan cara dan tujuan tertentu. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan tentang kata-kata tabu. Ada dua teori yang diterapkan dalam penelitian ini, teori utama oleh Timothy Jay (1992). Jay mengklasifikasikan sepuluh jenis kata-kata tabu yaitu cursing, profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, taboo, vulgarity, slang, epithets, insult & slurs, dan scatology. Teori kedua oleh Raymond D. Liedlich (1973) untuk mengeksplorasi fungsi kata-kata tabu. Liedlich mengklasifikasikan enam fungsi kata-kata tabu seperti create attention, discredit, provoke violent confrontation, endearment, create strong personal identification dan provide catharsis. Penelitian ini menggunakan film “Borat” sebagai sumber data karena pada percakapan di film tersebut banyak menggunakan kata-kata tabu. Hasil analisis penelitian ini menjelaskan bahwa ada 72 kata yang termasuk dalam kata-kata tabu. Dari sepuluh jenis kata tabu, ada enam yang ditemukan di Borat Movie. Selain itu, hanya ada empat fungsi kata-kata tabu yang muncul di film ini.

Kata Kunci : *tabu, film, Borat.*

I. Background of Study

Language is a tool of human to communicate to one another. Sociolinguistic studies observe that there are differences in language tending to focus on language style.

The word *Taboo* is borrowed from Tongan, which is spoken by Polynessians in Pacific archipelago (Gao, 2013). *Taboo* or *tapu* means “forbidden”, “not allowed”, “under

prohibition” but on the other hand *tapu* also means “holy” or “sacred”. *Taboo* words specifically uttered in informal condition or in certain situation that may qualify in suitable manner and purpose.

Nowadays, *taboo* words are commonly used in the world, especially in movie. It is to express the characters emotion such as; strong emotion of anger shock

feelings, anger, dissatisfaction and the others. And the other reason why many movies use taboo words in their dialogue is to support the plot of the story. As applied in daily activities, occurrence of taboo words is clear, like in *Borat Movie* .

I. Problem of Study

Considering the uniqueness of the use of the taboo words itself as mentioned on the background of the study above, there are two problems that can be formulated as follows:

- 1) What types of taboo words are used in the movie “Borat”?
- 2) How do taboo words function in movie “Borat”?

II. Aims of study

On every study, of course, there is a special aim, which is to find relevant answer to the problem of the study. Based on the statement above, this research aims at accomplishing the following purposes:

- 1) To classify the types of taboo words, which are used in the movie “Borat” .

- 2) To analyze the function of taboo words in the movie “Borat”.

III. Research Methods

The research methods that were used in this study were quantitative and qualitative methods including methods and techniques in determining data source, collecting data, and analyzing data. The data that were used in this research was taken from “Borat” movie. The data was taken from the dialogue, which were spoken by the actors in “Borat” movie. Borat is an American comedy film that tells about Cultural Learning’s of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan. The film was written and produced by British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, Dan Mazer, Anthony Hines, Peter Baynham Cohen. The data were collected by watching the “Borat” movie, downloading script and the last step was classifying and transferring the selected dialogues containing taboo words into the data sheet.

IV. Result and Discussion

3.1 Types of Taboo Words

There are five types of taboo words produced by the characters in Borat movie. They are obscenity, epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and slang.

1. Obscenity

Obscenity refers to expressions that are prohibited from public use since they involve repulsion to the sense, abhorrent, impolite and detestable to morality (Jay, in Doyle, 2009: 1).

In Borat movie, obscenity appears 27 times. Here are an examples of them:

Azamat : Calm down, let me explain.

Borat : What did you do with the bear?

Azamat : She ran off. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Borat :Hey! **Fuck off**, death!(*Borat,01:12:03*)

Azamat :You need to calm down yourself.

Borat uttered taboo words "**fuck off**" to express his emotional reaction to Azamat. "**Fuck off**" in this conversation

are the harmful words and may generate disgust as the function of obscenity.

2. Profanity

Profanity occurs when someone is using religious terminology in a profane, secular, or uncaring manner such as Jesus Christ, hell, damn, and Goddamn.

Here is the examples of profanity:

Shop Man : That's not enough.

Borat : Do you want hair...

Shop Man : No, I don't want any **damn** hair.

(*Borat,00:54:18*)

Borat : This is the best hair in Kazakhstan. Feel the quality.

Shop Man : I don't want your **damn** hair.(*Borat,00:54:23*)

Then Borat offer him (the shop owner) a hair; the best quality hair according to Kazakhstan. Since hair is not really a valuable thing here in America then the shop keeper refuse it by using a taboo word related

with profanity to show his emotional reaction.

3. Vulgarity

Vulgarity refers to words or expressions that contain sexual anatomy and excretory function in a rough manner such as ass, tit, cock, dick and clit. Vulgarity is believed to demonstrate the raw expression of the street language.

Borat : It is a custom
have cheese at
the start.

Bob : Thank you.

Borat : My wife, she
makes this
cheese.

Bob : Very nice.

Borat : She makes it
from her *tit*. (*Borat,00:24:54*)

The word *tit* in the dialogues above is not allowed to use in formal situation. It is related to sexual activity or anatomy and believed to demonstrate the raw expression of the street language.

4. Epithet

Epithet can occur because the one who utters the word is motivated by frustration or anger. Here is some examples about it:

Borat : First stop on our
journey was
Washington D.C.
Home of mighty
U.S warlord.
Premier Brush.
Look! Who has
an embassy here!
Uzbekistan, *fuck
you,
motherfuckers!*(
Borat,00:24:23)

That word was to describe his emotion to Uzbekistan. He hated Uzbekistan because his country has a bad relation with them.

5. Slang

Slang is very informal language and it is usually spoken than written, used in a groups among young people or teenagers.

Luenell : Everybody
almost see
your
underpants.

Borat : I never rode a

Luenell : Well, you
wanna... You
wanna come in
 for a little
 while?
 (Borat,00:51:06
)

Borat : I would like
 very much but I
 in love with a
 woman in
 Malibu.

Luenell launched taboo words *wanna*, which is unusual spoken by the people in formal conversation.

3.2 Function of Taboo Words

All of the function of taboo words including to discredit, creating attention, to endearment, and to creating strong personal identification. They are shown with its example below:

1. Discredit

This function can occur when people utter taboo words to show their disrespect felling toward the addressee.

Man : What's
 happening?

Borat : Nice to meet

you.
 Man : Get the *fuck* out
 of here before I
 break your jaw,
 bro.(Borat,00:0
 7:32)

The man show his disrepect in his mind and manifested it into an utterance of taboo words they use to show their contempt clearly.

2. Creating attention

This function can occur when someone utter a taboo word which has a strong connection to gain the listener's attention.

Negro Man : What the *hell*?
 Is that
 fishnet?(Borat,00
 :30:57)

Borat : No, no, no,
 these are my
 anti-pants.

He employed a taboo word to draw others attention so everyone knew what he was thinking.

3. Endearment

This function happens when a speaker utters taboo words to provoke a certain response from the listeners such as violation and anger.

Azamat : So call the
ministry and
get more
money.

Borat : What? If I did
that, they
would kill us!

Azamat : California had
better be as
good as you
say, or we're
finished.

Borat : You *bastard!*
(*Borat,00:55:29*)

Azamat got depressed and asked Borat to call the Kazakhstan ministry to get more money. Borat felt frustrated and launched taboo words to express his anger.

4. Creating Strong Personal Identification

This function happens when people utter taboo words because they are not satisfied

with public images such as government and institutions.

Borat : And *asshole*
Uzbekistan.(*Borat,00:01:34*)

When explaining about his country territories Kazakhstan, which are located near Uzbekistan Borat employed a taboo word before the word Uzbekistan to mock the authority of it. It is because they have a bad relation and the people from these countries tend to mock each other government.

3.3 Distributional Use of Taboo Words

There are five types of taboo words, i.e obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, epithet, and slang. The most dominant type used by the characters is obscenity, which appears 27 times (38%). Then, the second highest frequency is epithet which appears 21 times (29%) in the third place is vulgarity which appear 18 times (23%). Finally, the fourth and fifth place are profanity and slang which are appears only 3 times (5%). From the four functions of taboo word, the highest frequency occurs in the function

discredit which appears 39 times or 54%. The second place is to creating attention which occurs 21 times or 29%. Then the function to endearment is on the third place which occurs 7 times or 10%. And finally, the last position is the creation of strong personal identification which is only occurred 5 times or 7%.

This study also found an overlapping phenomenon. Some taboo words such as *shit*, *fuck* can be categorized into obscenity, vulgarity or epithet. The word “fuck” in the table above can be classified as obscenity and epithet. In term of meaning of the word “fuck” is categorized into obscenity because it is considered an impolite word. On the other hand, word “fuck” is can also be categorized into epithet because it used to express frustration or anger feeling.

The second overlapping phenomenon was the word “shit” that it can be classified into obscenity and vulgarity. “Shit” can be categorized into obscenity because it involves lack of morality. But, “shit” may become as vulgarity because if it refers to sexual anatomy. The word “shit” that occurred

in vulgarity means sexual part of body organ.

V. Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the writer has made final conclusion to explain about taboo words. According to the theory from Jay (1992), there are six types of taboo words that found in *Borat* movie. All types of taboo words including obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, epithet, slang and taboo are found in the dialogue among the characters in the *Borat* movie. The total number of taboo words found in the dialogue of *Borat* movie was 72 times.

Obscenity becomes the most frequency used taboo words because it is considered as the most effective way to insult someone. It is concluded that obscenity used by the character in *Borat* movie whenever they want to show disrespect towards the addressee.

Beside of types of taboo words, there are four function of taboo words found in *Borat* movie including discredit, create attention, endearment and the creation of strong interpersonal identification. Discredit becomes the most frequent function used by the character of *Borat* movie. This function

used by the character to show disrespect to others.

It is also found that some taboo words can be overlapped depends on the use of taboo words itself. The first overlapping word was “fuck” that can be classified into obscenity and epithet. The second was the word “shit” that may categorized into obscenity and vulgarity.

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